

Professor Liebig did no more than simply recommend the performance of isolated experiments, for the purpose of testing the truth or falsehood of certain opinions, which could not be satisfactorily determined in any other way. And it matters not whether we consider these suggestions at variance with his general theory or not. It was necessary that disputed questions should be settled by tangible experiments, and by this means be settled forever; for experiments are the only proofs of the validity of theories. But, to assume that suggestions to experiment amounted to an approval of a certain course of practice, is a very grave error. We cannot conceive, that there is any other way, of accounting for the prevalent tendency of distinguished members of the profession, thus, to misapply chemistry. Every attempt to graft the old routine of medical practice on organic chemistry, is only an additional proof that the principles of science are misapprehended. In place of continuing to look into the human body, for the reactionary changes, produced by the administration of foreign substances, this system of procedure must be abandoned *in toto*. It has been too long tried; and has resulted in nothing but discredit; because it is a system of guessing. It proceeds on no preascertained data; and, further than an experiment to demonstrate its fallacy, should be altogether discountenanced.

The groundwork, and in fact the whole scope of chemico-medicine, lies in a clear perception of the analogy between the nutritive and healing processes in man, compared with those of the lower animals and of plants. The limitation of our observations to the action of this or that individual substance, and the mere classification of results, is a narrow and discreditable employment of our faculties. The worm which crawls on the ground can discriminate, by actual contact, which one, of many substances, is best adapted to suit its immediate wants; but, for man, whose Promethean spirit is able to draw down fire from heaven, to be engrossed only with considerations that ascend no higher than the sensuous perception of the material objects which lie directly in his path, is unworthy of a being gifted with reason, and endowed with faculties that, if properly directed, should enable him to fathom the occult causes and scan the purposes and intentions of all earthly phenomena. The analogy of the elemental functions, in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, between plants and animals, and between the lower animals and man, is the fulcrum on which the truth of chemico-medicine ultimately rests. Without analogy, no generalization can be formed; and without a process of generalization, the truth, in this as in all parallel cases,