

individual to imagine that nowhere have the streams of knowledge flowed, so pure and copious, as at those fountains from which he slaked his early thirst; while a large and sturdy band of medical Nathanaels are utterly incredulous that any good thing can come out of Nazareth. Again, in no other profession or business does genuine merit meet with so little appreciation, and with so uncertain a reward. In the arts, as a rule, a good workman will produce good work, and the excellence of his workmanship is manifest. The joiner is not compelled to frame a door from unseasoned wood, nor is the tailor expected to furnish his customers with well-fitting habiliments from material all too scant. The lawyer lays his case before a jury—often incapables, it is true, but with the assurance, nevertheless, that the presiding judge sits to direct them in their verdict. But the medical practitioner is too often compelled to leave his case to the tender mercies of the ignorant and the malicious, with no judge to guide them, no censor to correct. How often are the abilities of the “doctor” assayed and stamped by a self-constituted committee of old ladies assembled in solemn conclave around their bread and butter, and in the inspiring presence of that modern household god, the tea-urn! How often is success coolly anticipated, and disappointment cruelly avenged, by those who have made the modest demand, that the doctor shall rejuvenate old age, and preserve the young in eternal youth; that he shall infuse health and strength into the worn out frame, and snatch the expiring victim from the jaws of inevitable death! How often is he ignorantly censured where he is undeserving of censure, or even where he is deserving of praise! An individual thus smarting under unmerited wrongs, is not to be stared at as a monster if he entertain some feelings of bitterness when, with vision jaundiced by injustice, he fancies he sees a rival, perhaps no more skillful than himself, yet by means of an insinuating address, and a happy faculty of making all things work together for his own good, rioting in popular favors, and receiving the plaudits of the multitude as a reward for his very blunders.

Upon this question, then, I claim a verdict in favor of