

as authorities. In time they become more critical of their own work and hence produce less. However, this premature work was not without benefit for the training they got and the amount they learned in preparing articles did them much good and prepared them for the riper work they produced later on.

Before closing this rather fragmentary address, I should like to say a few words on a subject about which I wrote many years ago, viz: Medical and Surgery quackery. A new phase has opened up during the past few years,—the desire on the part of the quacks to be legalized and the wish of many members of the various legislatures to aid them in this object. In Ontario, irregulars, such as osteopaths, chiropractors, etc., are trying to get an Act passed to legalize them and put them on a par with the regular profession and are finding support amongst supposedly educated and cultivated people. A commission, appointed over a year ago, has been investigating their claims and those of the regular profession, with no definite result as yet. That a commission was appointed shows the tendency of the times. It is extraordinary; notwithstanding all our education and supposed higher civilization, how quackery flourishes. In fact it is the upper classes of society who patronize quacks. "Imagination," says Bacon, "is next akin to a miracle working faith," for imaginary diseases are cured by the imagination. Man is a dupable animal; there is scarcely any one who may not, like a trout, be taken with tickling (Southey). The cures are mostly in those cases where no organic change exists, but that they have taught something I won't deny, for in cases of stiff joints with fibrous ankylosis or fibrous adhesions after traumatism, they often do good, but in many cases when serious lesions exist great harm can be done. I saw one case of ulcer of the stomach which had been rubbed for some time by an osteopath and who at last becoming alarmed at the condition of the patient sent him to a surgeon for operation. A perforation of the stomach was found and there was general peritonitis, accelerated, no doubt, by the vigorous treatment of the osteopath. The patient of course died. It is curious how now-a-days (although there have been bone-setters from time immemorial) that the modern quack treats mostly surgical cases; replaces a supposed bone out of place, reduces a dislocated spine, or rubs out a tumour—all more or less surgical. Now if such men are legalized, as they are in some states of the Union, then there is no further use for carrying on the work of various licensing bodies called colleges of physicians and surgeons. Let us have free trade in medicine and the best man will always