

Rev. W. B. ...
The ...

 Sent on approval.

◇ MEDICAL CRITICISM. ◇

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A leading thought with the writer, in relation to the sheet now issued, will be—To what extent, if any, is the public indebted to Allopathic practitioners for protecting them by Act of Parliament, against any other modes of cure than those prescribed by themselves? Reflecting persons are apt to conclude that as, in regard to the future life, there are many competitors eager to show us the way, and the conflicting claims of these gentlemen would appear to imply that they do not all possess a monopoly of wisdom and knowledge, so in regard to the present life are there not a few anxious, for a consideration, to guide us to or from that bourn whence no traveller, for the past eighteen centuries, has been known to return. Conflicting claims in the case of these terrestrial guides are wont to lead men to conclude that although a section of them has manifested *wisdom* enough to secure for themselves a patent-right to practise on their neighbours' lives, they may not possess a monopoly of *knowledge* in their own sphere; opportunity will therefore be given in this small sheet, and *increasing opportunity as subscriptions increase*, for all claimants to public favor to ventilate their claims. With regard to the patent-right above mentioned, a question of fundamental importance is—are the honorable members who have combined to extend this right to the Allopathic practitioners of Ontario, better qualified to decide on the merit of the Allopaths' claims than would be the same number of washerwomen? Barring that interesting group of eleven members of the medical profession, who have contrived to secure seats for the *sole* purpose of guarding the unsuspecting public against medical heresy, we should prefer the combined wisdom of a corresponding number of washerwomen: the ladies of the tub would, in many instances, remember how their mothers and grandmothers used to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, by the aid of a few herbs, or that of a bucket of hot water and a blanket: these discriminating individuals would therefore—if any M.D. dared to present himself at the bar of their house, and undertake to tell them the Latin name of their every muscle, and the number of their bones—probably serve such a *false staff* as the merry wives of Windsor served theirs,—ruthlessly plunge him into the nearest tub.

We shall present testimony from time to time, with regard to the claims of the Allopathic practitioners, which cannot but be important to every individual; we shall also present alternative modes of treatment, from which the judicious public may divine to some extent, in what manner they may expect to be treated, under certain circumstances, on sending for a doctor of this or that particular school.