

discriminate what is to be avoided from what must be observed, render the second indispensable.

22. We can say then that the medical man is a *collective individual*, that is to say, that he must unite in one and the same person both the Doctor of health and the Doctor of disease.

The attributes of the first, the most essential and the most proper to fulfil his mission, are to point out the defects of social organisation as well as the reforms to be introduced, to promote both the moral and physical improvement of mankind. The treatment of a disease would then become for the physician a rare occurrence, instead of being his chief and sole occupation. Such are not however, the feelings of a certain number of the disciples of Esculapius of the present day.

Most practitioners, however, have only one object in view: To acquire fame and fortune by the number of diseases which they can and do treat.

It is particularly among young practitioners that these ideas prevail in the highest degree. One not unlike the hero of the "diary of a physician," sallies forth early hunting squares and parks, alleys and lanes, in search of a patient who will permit him to show to the public that he knows how to prescribe the most elegant preparation of the pharmacopœia; another, expecting every thing from his surgical skill, longs for an operation to exhibit his uncommon dexterity and his imperturbable *sang froid*.

We must add however that when experience and age have thinned his hair or changed its colour, the physician loses that juvenile impetuosity, and he becomes more circumspect and calm. Without making terms with the disease, he combats it with the arms of prudence and experience, and if he bleeds as little as possible considering the exigencies of the case, it is to guard himself against the occurrence of consecutive affections.

He rests on a security acquired by a long and laboriously acquired experience, and the confidence which he inspires reacts in a most salutary manner in the circle of which he is the centre.

23. We have lastly to consider man respiring a vitiated air. He presents himself to our examination under a good many conditions:—

- I. The air may be but slightly vitiated.
- II. It may be deleterious.
- III. He may respire but little of it.
- IV. He may respire much of it.
- V. He may be in a state of inactivity.
- VI. He may be in a state of activity.
- VII. He was previously healthy.
- VIII. He was previously unhealthy.

If the ambient air is but slightly vitiated, everything being in the most favorable condition, the changes produced in the system will be slow but sure.

Thus, a person passing his life in the shade, never receiving the salutary influence of the sun's rays, will acquire but an imperfect development with a vigour in proportion. His diseases will always assume the asthenic type; and epidemics