

lecturers, however, never fail to add that *they* have somehow acquired the grand secret, and that *they* can readily cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, and especially such as are usually considered incurable.

But the wonder is not so much that ignorant and unscrupulous men should thus write and speak, but that so many believe their wholesale assertions; and it is not merely among the less educated classes that this fallacy prevails, for any one who observes what goes on around him, will soon see that even the best educated classes are largely infected with it.

Now, that this tendency to adopt the bold assertions of the quack doctors and to regard medicine as utterly devoid of a scientific foundation is a fallacy, it is impossible for any one to doubt who considers the subject with attention. The object of medicine being the cure of disease or the alleviation of suffering, it is plain that he who would succeed in it must make himself acquainted with the natural structure and functions of the human body, with the manner in which these are altered and affected by disease, with the natural characters of diseases themselves, with the nature and effects of remedies, and with the experience of past ages. Now in all this the student of medicine is merely doing for his subject, what every man does for whatever he may undertake. He is studying the facts and laws of nature as they concern his profession, and he brings to his aid that which the experience and sagacity of others have added to the common stock of knowledge.

Surely there can be no better conceivable method by which medicine ought to be learnt. He who is best acquainted with the objects of his profession, with the means at his disposal, and with the knowledge transmitted from past times, is certainly far more likely to prove a successful practitioner than he who despises study, and who, because in the treatment of the diseases affecting the wonderfully complex frame of man, absolute certainty has not been attained, at once asserts that medicine is unworthy the name of a science.

The common sense of the community in every-day matters contrasts favorably with their judgment in this respect. If a man's watch go seriously wrong, he does not trust it in the hands of one who has never studied the mechanism of watches. If a merchant's business be in disorder and bankruptcy stare him in the face, he does not seek the advice of those who have no knowledge of the laws which regulate commerce and finance; and yet these same men in matters where their own lives and the lives of their families are concerned, will trust blindly to him whose chief recommendation is, that he unsparingly abuses all