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## A Plea for a Popular Medical Science.

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THROUGH evil and through good report the people cling to three things with great tenacity. And these three things are not parents, wives and children; nor are they houses, lands and gold. What are these trifling things compared to our cherished faith in politics, religion and medicine? Go where you will, you will find all classes of society exquisitely tender upon these three points. Enter any family circle and you will find that from the oldest to the youngest they will invariably swear by father's political party, by the family pastor's theology, and by the family doctor's pill box. Multitudes have been ostracised, expatriated or murdered on account of their politics. Multitudes also have been torn in pieces by wild beasts, or burned at the stake, on account of their religious notions. It is almost superfluous to add that numberless human lives have been freely sacrificed on the altar of medicine.

A few wiseacres among us affect to despise the medical profession. They laugh to scorn our pretensions to any higher virtuous act than narcotising our patients and then plundering their pockets. But the great bulk of the people swear by us, stand by us, and—no joking—die by us. It is not a small matter to the least of us whether the universal race of doctors be good, bad or indifferent. The interest that concentrates about the rise and progress of medical science is not confined to the medical profession.

Every child of man who has blood in his veins that may boil with fever, or who has nerves that may thrill with pain, is linked by just so many ties to every question concerning the cure of human maladies. Every son of Adam and every daughter of Eve has more than a modicum of interest in that science which teaches how to cure disease. Next to their religion and their politics, people expect the greatest excellence in medicine.

Yet it must be confessed that medical questions have in themselves no popular element. Our churches are crowded weekly with large, fashionable, intelligent audiences, to whom are expounded lengthy discourses on metaphysical and spiritual topics. It cannot be denied that many of these devout worshippers are drawn into the churches through motives supplied by their milliners, dress-makers and tailors. In behalf of the ladies we would, if we could, deny the sott impeachment.