

barrel of water and well shaken is more powerful than a whole barrel of alcohol; that like cures like, and so he would cut off the second leg to remove the inconvenience occasioned by the loss of the first. He will carry a potato in his pocket to cure rheumatism, and blame God Almighty for the loss of his child from smallpox, when he neglected vaccination.

Be careful of the man who is too narrow to accept the good from whatever source it may come; whether he be allopath, homoeopath, eclectic, Indian or just common fool.

There is no such thing as hydropathic, allopathic, homoeopathic and eclectic schools to the scientific man. He acknowledges no man's right to adopt a remedy and say "It is mine; it belongs to my school." He is eager and ready to accept it as soon as its worth is proven, and it is to such a man that you and I must look for advancements along the line of scientific medicine. A man may accidentally discover a gold mine, but it takes application and knowledge and reasoning and labour to perfect the incandescent light, or harness the powers of Niagara. The unreasoning quack or empiric may light upon a remedy of merit, but it takes work and thought to evolve a rational treatment for disease.

I am always amused when I am shown a prescription containing a multiplicity of remedies. When I see ten to twenty drugs in a prescription, I know that it was written by a man whose knowledge of the case under observation was limited. His is the shot gun theory, namely, in many missiles one of them may hit the mark. When I see thirty remedies in a mixture I can discover at least twenty-five reasons for not giving it.

I want to let you into another professional secret. Those of this audience who, before they reformed, attended the theatre, know that when a doctor has a part in a play, he is invariably accused of giving bread pills. If I should ever fail to hear this superannuated joke, I would feel lonesome and robbed of my rights. Now, physicians call this form of treatment the administration of a "placebo." It is Christian Science treatment under another name, and is equally honest and efficacious. If a man can be cured by believing that there is no such thing as pain, he can be cured by believing that a bread pill is the remedy he needs, and he will have the added advantage of not appearing inconsistent when he puts his thumb in his mouth after he hits it with the hammer.

Now, the "placebo" is going out of fashion—in fact I may say that it is entirely so. Instead of it we have re-