

healthy, the morbid, and the curative nature of the vital actions.

*Pathology* has been also subdivided into *Semiology*, or the doctrine of symptoms; and *Nosology* for the names and divisions of diseases into their *genera* and species; a most tedious and terrible array, for the head of the poor disciple of Esculapius. Dr. Rush has here great merit in banishing nosology from the walks of medicine. You have only to imagine the dilemma of the practitioner, looking, in silence, on his suffering patient, until the disease would develop itself, that he might understand its nature; for this was necessary before he could prescribe. Dr. Rush, laid at once, his finger on the pulse, and directed, without delay, *depletion* or *stimuli*. This short and sudden process, gave opportunity of routing the enemy, (as the doctor used to say) before he had time to entrench himself in the human vitals!

*Therapeutics* do very well to express the curative indications. But it has been often suggested, that the above terms have been considered too much as separate subjects of pursuit, and independent of each other; and are used often without due consideration, in the antiquated and *scholastic* manner.

All these, *Pathology*, *Semiology*, *Nosology*, *Therapeutics*, depend on Physiology, as it depends on Anatomy. For no principle or mode of action of the human body, in health or in disease, can be either learned or understood without an accurate acquaintance with physiology.

Medicines, says Dr. Hoffman, contain no inherent principles of action in themselves. They do not act on the dead body, said Hippocrates, and their action on the living body depends on the state in which they find it; whether torpid or irritable, strong or weak, and it is the same with all parts of regimen, food, drink, air, exercise or any other.

This is sound philosophy, and has been illustrated by Dr. Cullen, on sensibility and irritability. *Sensibility*, when often excited becomes dull and loses its force: thus a dose of opium, if continued a few days, must be in-

creased, or it will have no effect. On the contrary, *irritability* augments by being excited; if an emetic be repeated for several days, the dose must be diminished; the irritation of the stomach will not bear the original quantity. It must be diminished daily.

*Medical* substances may be understood perfectly in their chemical properties, as they are by some apothecaries, and yet we may be perfectly ignorant of them in their physical operations on the human body. This distinction will show that Dr. Thomson, without a *knowledge* of chemistry or botany, may know the physical operation of his medicines, better than the most profound chemist. For this knowledge must be learned by experience, and not in the dust, and toil, and retirement of the schools. Hippocrates has given us the clue; medicines affect the body according to the state in which they find it. The state or condition of the body, and the operation of the medicine on that state we commonly learn, as Thomson learned it, by experience.

Dr. Brown, by reducing all diseases into two classes, *sthenic* and *asthenic*, ascertained, at once, to which class the complaint belonged, on visiting his patient, and proceeded accordingly to remove the debility.

Dr. Rush, by making disease a unit, caused by morbid excitement, and its *state* or condition to be ascertained by the pulse, would decide with equal facility, on the mode of cure; equalize the excitement.

Dr. Thomson, by making disease the general effect of one general cause, *obstruction*, has fixed his remedy, like the others. *Remove the obstruction*, is his cure; *Remove the debility*, was Dr. Brown's cure; *Remove the morbid excitement*, was Dr. Rush's cure; and all by different stimulants. The *debility* was removed by diffused stimulants: The *morbid excitement* by diffusive stimulants: The *obstruction*, by diffusive stimulants.

These gentlemen, though they have travelled on far diverging paths, yet, at the end of their journey they have almost met in single point. They began their career together about the end of the last century; and before the middle of