

sician. He went to Basle, the scene of his early venture in university study. Here he was so fortunate as to cure of some disease Frobenius, the printer, who recommended him to *Æcolampadius*. By the latter's influence he was appointed to the chair of medicine and chemistry in the university. He was thus the first professor of chemistry on record. His inaugural lecture reveals many characteristics of the man as well as his theory of education. I, therefore, give a somewhat lengthy extract. It is dated at Basle, the nones of June, 1527:

"It is not a degree, nor eloquence, nor a faculty for languages, nor the reading of many books, although these are no small adornment, that are required in a physician; but the fullest acquaintance with subjects and with mysteries, which one thing easily supplies the place of all the rest. For it is indeed the part of a rhetorician to discourse learnedly, persuade and bring over the judge to his opinion; but it behoves the physician to know the genera, causes and symptoms of affections, to apply his remedies to the same with sagacity and industry, and to use all according to the best of his ability. But to explain the method of teaching in a few words, I must first speak of myself. I, being invited by an ample salary of the rulers of Basle, for two hours in each day do publicly interpret the books both of practical and theoretical medicine, physics and surgery, whereof I myself am author, with the greatest diligence, and to the great profit of my hearers. I have not patched up these books after the fashion of others from Hippocrates, Galen or any one else; but by experience, the great teacher, and by labor have I composed them. Accordingly, if I wish to prove anything, experiment and reason for me takes the place of authorities."

He then lighted some sulphur in a pan, and to these Tartarean flames he consigned the works of Galen, Avicenna, Averrhoes and Aristotle, to the amazement and horror of his audience. Books were expensive and prejudices strong in those days! Browning puts into his mouth a probable explanation of this act:

"Here's a case now,

Why I answer not, but burn  
The books you mention. Pray does Luther dream  
His arguments convince by their own force  
The crowds that own his doctrine? No, indeed!  
His plain denial of established points  
Ages had sanctified and men supposed  
Could never be oppugned while earth was under  
And heaven above them,—points which chance or time  
Affected not,—did more than the array  
Of arguments which followed. Boldly deny!  
There is much breath-stopping, hair stiffening  
Awhile; then amazed glances, mute awaiting  
The thunderbolt which does not come; and next