

wrongly, of ideas, and calling them truths, although such are wrong in argument and principle.

Fourthly, a vast majority of cases of insanity can be traceable to physical disease, or malformation, consequently disease is not *per se* a bar to punishment, although it is not likely that the truth goes as far as the opinions of Dr. Beck (I. Med. Jur., p. 725) would lead us to believe, that "Insanity is essentially a bodily disease, and the moral causes operate in producing it, as they do in producing other complaints.

MEDICINE—AN HISTORIC SKETCH.

BY CHARLES M. BEAUMONT CORNELL, M.D., L.R.C.P.S., KN., TOLEDO.

Medicine, in its most comprehensive sense, includes everything pertaining to the knowledge and cure of disease, but, in a more restricted sense, the term is employed in contra-distinction to Surgery and Obstetrics, although the latter are properly departments of Medicine in the comprehensive sense of the term, yet, apart from principles common to both Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, they may be cultivated separately. The *Medical Profession* embraces all who devote themselves to the study and practice of Medicine proper Surgery and Obstetrics conjointly or separately. The term *Physician* is applied to a member of the profession who devotes his time and attention to the diseases which belong to the department of Medicine proper. The same may be said with respect to Surgery and Obstetrics. As it was in "olden times," so is it now, the physician may, or may not officiate in the departments of Surgery and Obstetrics. In this country and in the United States most physicians are, of necessity, obliged to act also in the capacity of Surgeons and Obstetricians, and hence receive the name "*General Practitioners*."

The history of Medicine, with any degree of accuracy, dates back to the days of *Hippocrates*, considered the 18th lineal descendant from *Esculapius*, the "*God of Medicine*," whose history is so involved in fable as to render futile any attempt at accurately tracing it, though his two sons, *Machaon* and *Podalirius*, gained at the siege of Troy such celebrity in the healing of wounds, as won the laudation