

all reflexes is the liberation of the filaments of the nerves bound firmly by more or less plastic exudations and undue contraction of the sphincters and other sphincter muscles. Dilatation of the sphincters is claimed to be the most potent resource in chloroform narcosis.

Another new thing to me was the attendance of the many lady students in the colleges I visited, at all the lectures and clinics, including the male venereal and the orificial and why not?

And then the ophthalmoscope, the otoscope and the laryngoscope, and other things are all new since I went to sleep by turning my back on civilization thirty years ago. And surely there must have been an immense increase in the numbers of the worm-like appendage of the cæcum. New ones. "Hence hangs a tail." Does it become "hooded," or need circumcision, or curetting, or dilating, or the "American"?

After an absence of eight months, I hied me to my home by the Western Sea.

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## Prince Edward Island.

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### HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION MISCONSTRUED.

The *Arena*, a monthly magazine, published in Boston, in last February's issue contains an elaborate article on "The Menace of Medical Monopoly." The writer evidently thinks it is a *squelcher*, and, so far, he has displayed considerable ability in evading the real issue. Higher medical education does not give or aid a monopoly in any sense. The writer ignores the rights of the public and the state. The state has an undoubted right to exercise police powers, and to demand when one dies, proof that he is dead and the cause of death. The proof is invariably a medical certificate. Is it unreasonable on the part of the state to require that the author of that certificate should possess certain qualifications? We think not, and that it is right and proper that there should be one standard of medical education, and every man who desires to practise the medical profession should come up to the standard. It is not a class law, nor is there any comparison between the standard

and the "religious hierarchy" of the Dark Ages, neither is it despotic. Mr. Flower, in his article, starts from false premises—he argues that a man cannot take any medicine but what is ordered by an authorized doctor, and quotes the case of his wife where a layman ordered *raw oysters* and *capsicum*. The liberty of the citizen is not interfered with in what they eat or drink, and higher medical education does not restrict anyone from buying anything they know how to use. But the liberty to buy what you please and do what you please are two different things. The idea that anyone who prescribes *oysters* and *capsicum* should have the liberty of styling himself a doctor, and cry out despotism, if required! Before he can assume that title, he must possess a certain standard of qualifications. Nay more, in view of the prevalence of quackery, the state has the undoubted right to require state qualifications as the legal right to practise.

If everyone had the liberty to sell what food and drinks they pleased, great injury would result to the public health, hence the state restricts articles that are injurious or adulterated. The liberty of the subject comes in here equally as well.

As a matter of fact, higher medical education does not create a monopoly, but it requires a better article, and in view of Mr. Flower's own statement of his experience concerning the various differences or mistaken opinions in the diagnosis of his wife's case, it is the best proof, eminent and all as the men may have been, that there was some defect in their training and medical education: and had they weighed the case they would have discovered that it was one of the innumerable nervous manifestations which has been the opprobrium of the profession in all ages. She must have been one of that class, or *oysters* and *capsicum* and *Christian so-called scientists* would not have succeeded in curing her. Anything that makes a *dominant impression* may effect a cure in these cases, which a very ignorant person may practise and succeed with on another ignorant person.

Jugglery of any kind succeeds in some cases where downright straightforward honesty may fail to make an impression, but we would be sorry to take the stand in this enlightened age that free scope should be given to this sprout or offspring of the Dark Ages.