

to be sent direct from the gods, bearing special cures; but we do wonder when we know that many of our own intelligent countrymen fondly trust to have cured incurable diseases by the diligent use of remedies A.B.C. or X.Y.Z., sent by some unknown on the receipt of a drop of blood or a lock of hair

The wonderful leech Æsculapius and his two sons were well skilled in the medical lore of the day, but the claim of infallibility made for them was generally accepted, and generally among the people prevailed the child-like belief that they had in their possession certain miracle-working drugs, like the "Moly" or the "lotus-blossom," procurable only from an immortal god, or, like Helen's Egyptian nepenthe, that came from some far-off, unvisitable place.

It is true that the story as told by Homer of these divinities is somewhat different. He speaks of them as leeches whose skill is altogether human, yet gave excellence all but divine; yet in his writings, too, we can distinguish the two tendencies, the poetical superstitious one as well as the positive practical one, the former showing itself in tales of marvellous cures by these wonder-workers of wonderful drugs, procured by heroes under the special protection of heaven, and of wonderful skill and knowledge possessed by the divine healers.

It is not strange that in those days many of the Greeks firmly believed in the ability of these divine doctors to work miracles; but it is strange that to-day so many of our people, who pride themselves on being practical men, and who must see before they believe, are, with the simplicity and confidence of children, beguiled into the belief that the days of miracles are not over, but that the gods, in sorrow for suffering mankind, still send direct to them a miracle-worker in the form of a pink pill or a celery compound; it matters not if their hard-earned gold goes into the pockets of men who, if it were not for knavery, would starve, and who, in order to be known, require to have their pictures posted up at all the street corners.

The great struggle for existence in which we are all engaged is to some of us a comparatively easy one, but to some of us who are handicapped by adverse circumstances the fight often seems to be against us. If at any time we are inclined to think somewhat kindly of that parasite, the modern quack,—that hydra-headed monster who follows after and preys upon the profession, using some of the knowledge acquired with much toil in such a way as even to bring it into disuse,—if, we say, we are ever inclined to look with kindly pity on this class, it is when we think that, endowed as they have been with but feeble intellects, they have been forced to resort to the black arts in medicine to save themselves from death or to fill the mouths of their starving children. Do we seek a cure for this disease? Then let us drive it completely out of our ranks. Let us in all our dealings with our patients and with our brethren be professional men, and not tradesmen. Are we to attain an honorable position in our profession? Then let us as primary students remember that upon our knowledge of anatomy and physiology will greatly depend our future success.

Sir Astley Cooper says: "Operations cannot be undertaken by any man without a thorough knowledge of anatomy;" half-anatomists are bungling practitioners. Ignorance here, as it always does, gives confidence without

power. Indolence is the great barrier, stopping many a man in his march to success. It requires no small resolution at times to read carefully our journals, to keep ourselves conversant with the newest literature.

Are we to be abreast of the times? Then we must not shut ourselves up in the houses of our patients; our instruments must be of the most approved type; our case books must be constantly in use; for experience does not always come with age. The greatest number of well-assorted facts on a particular subject constitutes experience, whether they have been culled in five years or in fifty years. We must remember, too, that our diagnosis can, in many cases, be certainly tested only on the post-mortem table.

If the doctor's first and main object is getting his fee, in this he will probably, in one way or another, be successful, but he must fall far short of what the ideal doctor should be. The discovery of some new method of cure, or the following out successfully of some good old one, must always be more to the really successful practitioner than his fee.

A man owes a duty to his profession—that of using well and honorably the knowledge he has gained and the skill he has acquired, so that by no ill-doing of his a slur may be cast on the profession; he also owes to it the duty of enriching the store of scientific knowledge it possesses. To the public generally, and to his patients particularly, he owes a duty most important. He must always be ready, armed with the necessities required, to meet any emergency; he must be gentle or perhaps firm at the bedside; he must be honorable in respecting confidences, for he is often called upon to be the adviser and councillor as well as the physician.

Let me speak for a few moments of a clan of practitioners whom the public generally set down as our professional brethren, and whom to a certain extent we recognize as such, although too often we find cropping up among them marks of a degenerate parentage. It is true they speak disrespectfully of their great founder, but that is always a bad sign in children however unworthy a parent may have been. We are told that there are no Hahnemannites now, that Hahnemannism is dead, and we believe that that is almost true. That the absurdities written by the founder of Homeopathy are believed we do not think, but even yet we can sometimes distinguish fruits of the cloven foot. These brethren not only lay claim to possessing wonderful power of their own, but they charge that the existence of medical knowledge amongst the profession generally is of a rather insignificant character; but we have got hardened to such charges, for daily in our newspapers like contumely is heaped upon us by men of a class to which I have already referred. Sometimes collections of figures are sent us by them, bearing, it is true the air of carefully culled facts, pretending to shew a greater mortality among those treated by us than among those treated according to their rules; but we must know and never lose sight of the fact that statistics, if they are not to be actually misleading, must be true and accurate, and diagnosis strictly correct. We heartily wish success to those members of the opposing school who are doing their utmost to separate the chaff from the wheat and to free their profession from the burden of mingled imbecility and misrepresentation so long imposed upon a credulous public.

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