

alone, be qualified to enter upon the study of medicine. But no! our universities may grant degrees in arts, but the colleges and affiliate medical schools over-ride them!! and subject the candidate to a new ordeal, from which he should be exempt!!

Yet the possessor of a *liberal* education, compared with one *crammed* for an examination—the nature and extent of which he may have learned from those who had gone in before him—is, to use a familiar comparison, as one standing on the timber to be divided, seeing the line to be followed, and guiding the instrument intelligently, compared with the one beneath, who mechanically aids the work, but, blinded by the dust and particles he has detached above his head, is uninformed as to the progress or nature of the work being done. And so it is with labour of an intellectual kind. We must be above our knowledge, not under it. If above it, we may generalize, reduce to method, “have a grasp of principles and shape our acquisitions by them.” If below our knowledge, we are confused and oppressed; and the greater the number of facts the more those facts confuse and oppress.* This is markedly the case in medicine. An ill-informed physician is easily startled at every change in the condition of a patient; and rushes in to check, control and interfere, when, with a better trained mind, he would be led to observe, and to note, that, if need be, he might, with greater advantage, guide and direct. The uneducated man, unaccustomed to group and to combine, gives prominence to what may be unimportant; and fails to recognize what is of value. It is with medicine as with politics. We have two classes of politicians in this country; the one, versed in the science and art of government, and in the ethics which concern human actions, and capable of an abstract view of the contentions of parties; the other, a mere transcript or copy of the last editorial in the journal of his party,—unequal to methodically arranging or digesting facts, or to comprehending the laws and principles which govern party and party issues. To which class of mind—

* In an able editorial in the *Philadelphia Medical Times* for May, 1877, it is asserted that the standard of graduation in the United States, south of New England, has been steadily lowered, and although “new matter has been added to the curricula,” and “the bait of clinical instruction has been alluringly spread, the effect has been evil, because the attempt has been simply to pour into vessels already overfull.” Would it not have been nearer the truth to say the vessels had not been prepared of a capacity to contain what they received, but could not retain?