

the right is certain, that some of these passed the medical board is equally certain, that the results in many cases of the Thomsonian system were as good as those of the regular profession is also certain. Nor is this to be wondered at. There is extant the report of a case in which one physician in Upper Canada sued another for libel. At the trial, in 1827, it was proved that the plaintiff had bled a young girl several times within a few days, taking five quarts of blood from her; and had physicked a young man, who had a "touch of fever," with calomel till "his mouth got raw and sore, his teeth loose, and his breath bad."

The Botanic Thomsonian School or Physiomedical School, though at first antagonistic to, gradually merged into, the Eclectic School. The opposition of these to the practice of bleeding had much to do with its comparatively early disappearance.

They were not invariably successful in their practice; indeed, Thomson himself had the misfortune to run up against the criminal law in Massachusetts. In January, 1809, he was called to attend Ezra Lovett, Jr. at Beverley, Mass. He had come to that town the preceding month; and it is said had much vaunted the virtues of his medicines, which he called by such extraordinary names as "coffee," "well-my-gristle" and "ramcats." Lovett had a cold; Thomson ordered a large fire lit in his room, wrapped the patient up and gave him a powder in water, of course, lobelia, No. 1; this "puked him." Three minutes afterward he gave him another dose, which operated two minutes later; he repeated the dose with the same effect, all three doses within half an hour, the patient meanwhile drinking copiously of the "coffee," which was proved to be an infusion of marsh rosemary mixed with bayberry bark, i. e. No. 3. The next day and next he was dosed with the same medicines, and on the following day he was sweated. The next two days the doctor did not appear, but on the following day he administered No. 1 and No. 3 again,