

be suggested and simultaneously adopted, to remedy the evil complained of. It is well to understand, at the same time, the full import of the difficulties which surround the whole question; because it is only by becoming sensible of the magnitude of the obstacles which oppose a beginning to the progress of medical reform, that the proper means, by which to remove them, can be devised and successfully undertaken. In regard to the prejudices of many of the old practitioners, and also of the more numerous body, whose chief qualification consists, in being able to follow unscrupulously and to the letter, the empirical routine of the existing schools, it is reasonable to assume that they could be easily overcome, by the example of those more gifted medical authorities who, by their writings, determine the law and give a shape and tone to the popular medical tenets of the day. It is evident, that the general belief imputes to established and deep rooted prejudice, the difficulty of innovation on the present system. And this prejudice certainly exists. But if properly regarded, cannot be considered to stand in the way of a reformatory change. If, from the presentation of the subject in its proper light, the conviction can once be produced, of the disparaging contrast, between a system of practice having a scientific foundation, and that, at present existing, which has no theory, and is incapable of being defended, the issue will soon be determined. The chief point is, to set forth prominently the radical cause of the evil—that which underlies and constitutes its substratum. The conviction must be brought home to the mind of every member of the profession, that it is the exclusively empirical character of medicine which constitutes its radical defect; in which empiricism there exists not only a want of correspondence, but *an actual opposition between professional practice and natural principles*. The presentation of this fact, the proofs of its truth, and the illustrations requisite to impress it deeply and permanently on the good sense of the great body of medical practitioners, are, in my opinion, all that are wanted, to secure an immediate recognition of the claims of science, and an abandonment of the unsatisfactory foundation on which medicine has hitherto rested. The time has besides arrived, when a change of system has become unavoidable; and can no longer be delayed, despite of the disposition to concede or withhold what the circumstances so urgently demand. The principles of organic chemistry, affirmed by the most ample experimental proofs, within the last twenty years, are directly opposed to the system of medication now in general use. Those principles, as has been before stated,