

survey of all we know, we get the idea that nature is everywhere consistent, surely a consoling thought when we sit at the bed side discouraged, and feeling how impotent we are.

She is consistent in the frog's foot as well as in the torn tree. She is consistent in the mountain and sea, as well as in the heavens. She is equally consistent in ways we cannot see. In our struggle with disease let us remember that the *vis medicatrix naturæ* is on our side, and we should be ever careful not to retard her operations. A comprehension of the laws of nature makes men modest. It banishes pretension of every sort. It will prevent us from falling into one of the greatest evils of the present day, viz.: over medication. It will prevent us from saying I cured his wound, but rather to say what *Ambroise Pare* more truly said in 1550, I dressed his wound and God healed it.

The profession of medicine needs broad minded liberal men. Nature's laws are too ample to be grasped completely by any mind, much less by a narrow one, and we need to know more of natural processes. Let us first recognize the necessity of liberality. It is then but a step forward to strive to attain it. We may first begin by keeping our minds open to conviction on all points, whether they seem reasonable or not. If we know how to weigh evidences of the kind presented to us, we shall then be able to reach conclusions through them. When we get into thorough sympathy with nature we shall understand her evidences according to our capacity. A man possessed of a natural adaptability for the study of medicine, together with studious habits and perseverance, will acquire more knowledge during two years at college than one intended for a carpenter or a shoemaker will in six. It is the qualities inherent in the man which must decide whether or not he will be successful in the practice of medicine, and if he possesses that enthusiasm and application that every searcher after truth should have, he will make a *vera medicus*, whom the people will delight to honor and employ. To be successful healers we must be careful observers. The laying aside of prejudice is the hardest of all sacrifices, but we must make it cheerfully or be left hopelessly behind in the march of progress.

And whilst we naturally hold tenaciously to remedies which have served us faithfully in time past, we should manifest a willingness to thoroughly try the new remedies which are recommended from time to time. Let us strive against narrowness. Nature has given us minds with an adjustment, an adaptability to circumstances. She has not chained us to a *stake* like the "Devils in Holy Willie's Prayer." She has given us power to reflect, and reflection should make us liberal.