

Most of us have heard it broadly asserted that the healing art has remained comparatively stationary during the present century, while other departments of science and art have, during the same period, advanced with great rapidity.

It is true the marvellous applications of steam are creations of the present century. Watt and others have taught mankind to subdue and harness that "docile monster" to different kinds of machinery. By the steamboat we are safely wafted from shore to shore independent of wind or tide, and with the swift rush of the "iron horse" we are conveyed from place to place with the speed of the bird. It is also within the memory of most of us, that a greater feat has been achieved; the Electric Telegraph, that "railway of the mind," has annihilated space, and enabled us, instantly, to whisper our very thoughts from one extremity of the world to the other. And the "science of chemistry has taught the artist to convert that sun himself into a matchless painter," who, with wonderful rapidity, can elaborate the most difficult portraits and complex landscapes, with a degree of perfection unattainable by the human hand.

Yet it may be confidently maintained, that during the period in which these brilliant discoveries have been taking place, medicine has advanced in various directions and forms, by strides as marked and as great as those belonging to any other department of art.

To prove this statement let me endeavour to recall to your recollections some of the *principal* advances and changes that have been produced during the present century. Time will not permit, even were I able to discuss in detail, however briefly, the alterations that have occurred in some of the branches of medical study. As for example, in chemistry, a science, the very language of which has become revolutionized under the guidance of the atomic theory. Physiology has greatly improved, and is daily gaining additions to its domain. And anatomy itself has advanced in modern days, as is evidenced by the discovery that almost all, if not all the component elements and tissues of the human body, and of the bodies of other organized beings, do either consist, or have originally consisted, of nucleated cells.

I need not tell you that *Pathological Anatomy* was known and in some degree appreciated in olden times. But it is within the present century, that, by its light, the nature of diseases previously all but unknown have been explained, such as Bright's disease, morbus Addisonii, endocarditis, ramollisement of the brain, phlebitis, œdema glottidis, emphysema of the lungs &c., &c. It has enabled us to separate into specific diseases, affections formerly confounded together; as, for instance, the