

**XLVI.—A Manual of the Practice of Medicine.** By **GEORGE HILARO BARLOW**, M.A. and M.D.; Cantab. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician to Guy's Hospital; to the Magdalen Hospital; and to the Philanthropic Society. With additions by **D. Francis Condie**, M.D., Fellow of the College of Physicians; Author of a Practical Treatise on Diseases of Children, &c. Pp. 607. 1856. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson.

The story is told of a celebrated surgeon in the "good old times" of heroic treatment, that he was accustomed to prescribe to his hospital patients *en masse*, by issuing the order one day to "bleed the north ward, and physic the south," varied the next day by "physic the north and bleed the south ward." To the physician of the present age, the extent to which depletory treatment was carried some fifty or a hundred years ago is rather startling. Yet our predecessors were astute men, and careful observers, and not at all likely to pertinaciously persevere in a practice decidedly mischievous. There must have been some difference in the type of disease, some peculiarity in the individual to render him tolerant of such treatment. And, moreover, when we come to examine the matter closely, we find that their success was very fair, and, considering the great light thrown by modern investigation on the nature of many diseases, will compare favorably with that of the modern physician. Be the causes what they may, the fact is almost universally recognized that people now-a-days, as a general rule, will not tolerate powerful antiphlogistic treatment. Of course to this rule there are many exceptions, as, for instance, all cases of acute inflammation occurring in strong robust persons. But even in many of such it cannot be carried to an extreme length. In every new work issued from the press, we find the subject of blood-letting, that most powerful of antiphlogistic remedies, treated in a manner consonant with the prevailing opinion derived from daily experience. Mr. Barlow, whose work is the most recently published on practice of medicine, has some excellent remarks on general and local depletion. There are three effects produced by bleeding:—  
 "1. A diminution of the power and frequency of the heart's action; 2. A derivation of the blood from the inflamed part; 3. A modification of the character of the blood itself." The first effect is produced either rapidly or slowly, depending in a great measure upon the position in which the patient is placed. If he be bled in the erect position, syncope quickly supervenes, in consequence of the rapid removal of pressure from the brain and medulla oblongata, and the heart's action becomes much sooner impaired than if the same amount of blood were abstracted