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Hippocrates, the introduction of creeds and dogmas into medicine and the consequent contempt of the vulgar did not matter; but the attempt made within the last one hundred years to introduce dogma and fanciful theory has resulted in retarding the development of medicine as a science of observation and experiment; and even at the present day, when we are not troubled so much with denominationalism in medicine, it has helped to prevent that recognition to which the science is entitled from the state.

Another reason for the indifference shown by the state to medicine and medical research, especially on this continent, is the fact that instruction in medicine has been very largely conducted and controlled by proprietary institutions. As these were managed for financial gain, it is manifest that they would spend as little as they could in equipping laboratories which cost money. It was to the interest of many of the teachers to teach the professional subjects well, for their own reputations were enhanced; but in instruction in the sciences there was very little of such inducement, for the air was full of talk about "practical" things and against "new-fangled notions." These institutions turned out a large number of medical practitioners, among whom were undoubtedly good men; but the ideas of many of these graduates concerning medicine and medical science could not be higher than those of the institutions from which they received their education. The advocates of the endowment of medical research have had to contend, therefore, with a confused public opinion, backed by the inertia of at least thirty thousand practitioners, and also with schools and colleges of medicine whose craft was endangered. According to a lecture recently delivered by Professor DaCosta, the number of medical schools and colleges in the United States constitutes the greatest enemy of medical progress, for the weaker ones, in order to have students and live, keep the standard down. A few years ago there were nearly three hundred of them, and they now number about one hundred and forty-five. As there are but about twenty-five medical schools and faculties in Great Britain and Ireland for a population of 38,000,000, it is obvious that if the same proportion obtained in the 65,000,000 population of the United States there would be about forty-five such institutions. Professor DaCosta says that they die at the rate of three a year, according to which it would take over thirty years to get rid of the not only needless, but harmful excess. The majority of them confer the degree of M.D., although they have no university connection whatever, and we owe to such a condition of affairs that the American medical degree receives so little respect the world over. We may find in this condition also the cause of the failure of American universities to mould professional life, at least in medicine. Of late years efforts have not been wanting