

scope and chemistry—notwithstanding that the minute structure of the “fearfully and wonderfully wrought” human frame has been unravelled—notwithstanding that the function of every organ has been interrogated our work is far from done—progress must still be our watchword, “Excelsior” our motto.

The indications of the present time point to SANITARY SCIENCE as the fruitful field where fresh laurels are to be won. The *Prophylaxis* of disease rather than its treatment is likely to absorb the attention of the best minds of our time. The discoverer of a means whereby the ravages of the remaining exanthemata and cholera may be prevented, will deservedly occupy a niche high in the Temple of Fame, and he who contributes to cause only one case of disease to appear, where two formerly existed, is surely more deserving of being considered a benefactor of his race, than he who causes “two blades of grass to grow” where only one grew before.

One word in conclusion. The path of progress is still strewn with thorns. The blind prejudice of the ignorant ever has been, and still is, the worst foe to advancement. Medical science, like all other science, is sadly hampered by the lack of a more general and higher order of intelligence, capable of appreciating and seconding the efforts of its promoters. May we indulge the hope that our admirable school system will prove a powerful aid in this direction, and that it will materially aid in remedying this glaring defect? To the educated and refined alone need the Physician look for generous appreciation, and a full recognition of his professional worth and social status.

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF ETHER OVER CHLOROFORM AS AN ANÆSTHETIC AGENT.

BY R. H. CAREY, M.D., (HARVARD) LUNENBURG, N. S.

The use of anæsthetics in surgical operations has been, I might almost say, co-existent with the science of surgery. Pliny mentions that mandrake root steeped in wine was usually given to persons about to undergo surgical treatment, in order to produce insensibility; whilst Apuleius speaks of its use by criminals before receiving punishment.