

fatal derangement in one or other of the bodily organs, that the vital functions will become greatly impaired, or even destroyed. The truth of this was often forcibly impressed on my mind, while the pastor of a large congregation. Sometimes, when called to see my parishioners, I astonished them, by telling them that they needed the physician first and specially: and, permit me to add, occasionally astonished physicians, by telling them that unless the moral and spiritual treatment were successful theirs would fail. Now, while the most ordinary practitioner can easily see that there is such connection between mind and body as to produce reciprocally the most powerful action and reaction, it is only the man who has thoroughly studied the mental as well as the physical parts of our nature, who can form any just notion of the mysterious, yet powerful, phenomena to which I have referred. Unless he knows much of the laws that regulate these influences, he will be utterly at fault in some of the most delicate and trying cases that come under his care. I take leave respectfully to say, that if you be not tolerably good metaphysicians, if you have not somewhat closely studied mind, not only in its intellectual but moral aspects, there are patients for whom it were not safe for you to prescribe. Depend on it, you must understand the maladies of the mind, before you can in many cases minister successfully to the diseases of the body. It is true, that with all this knowledge, you may be compelled to answer as the doctor does in the play:—

“Macb.” How does your patient, Doctor?

“Doct.” Not so sick, my Lord,
As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

“Macb.” Cure her of that;
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased;
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff’d bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

“Doct.” Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

“Macb.” Throw physic to the dogs, I’ll none of it.”

No, not so fast. Physic has its uses here, and may be of vast importance. For, assuredly, some of the worst cases of insanity might have been cured in their incipient stages, if the physician had seen clearly what was the true source of the malady; whether its cause was entirely physical, or purely