

and carefully bound up with clean linen rags, but, *above all, to be let alone* for seven days, at the end of which period the bandages were removed, when the wound was generally found perfectly united. The triumph of the cure was decreed to the mysterious agency of the sympathetic powder which had been so assiduously applied to the weapon, whereas it is hardly necessary to observe that the promptness of the cure depended upon the total exclusion of air from the wound, and upon the sanative operations of nature not having received any disturbance from the officious interference of art."

There is a steady advance being made in the special science of dentistry. There are certain individuals who have the opportunity and the ability to observe, and to experiment, and to draw conclusions. But at the same time it must be remembered that in all ages false ideas have been presented to the world, and it must also be admitted that, let a man be as clever, as careful and as studious as he may, it is human to err. The acceptance without proof of the theories presented, on the authority of eminent men, is one of the greatest barriers to the recognition of error. It is legitimate, to a certain extent, to place confidence in an "argument from authority." One may learn for himself, from observations and experiments, that a particular class of doctrines advanced by certain men are correct. But the fatal error of placing confidence in all theories from the same source must be avoided. A man may be competent to offer opinions upon a particular subject, but outside of that he may not be a desirable authority. All that is printed must not be accepted, merely because it is in a book or journal, for there is a tendency for human nature "to become tyrannical, unless it is constantly confronted with facts and subjected to criticism."

Perhaps a greater source of error is the illegitimate credence placed in "authority from antiquity." One will be less awed by the past, and more courageous to investigate theories that have been accepted for generations, if it be remembered that in reality antiquity is younger than the present. The present is the oldest stage of the world. The present generation has the experience of the past as a basis of investigation, and therefore it is in a better position to attain to the truth. Dr. Paris says: "The history of Peruvian bark would furnish a very curious illustration of the overbearing influence of authority in giving celebrity to a medicine, or in depriving it of that reputation to which its virtues entitle it. This heroic remedy was first brought to Spain in the year 1632, and we learn from Villerobel that it remained for seven years in that country before any trial was made of its powers, a certain ecclesiastic of Alcala being the first person in Spain to whom it was administered in the year 1639; but even at this period its use was limited, and it would have sunk into oblivion but for the supreme