

Our plea, therefore, is for a popular medical science; for the taking down of the gates that have too long barred out the people from these vital questions, in order that we may let the people in, or else turn the questions out, where they can have a free range in the intellectual considerations of the public mind. If medical science was a system established solely for the benefit of its practitioners, it might be properly left where it is, in the hands of the doctors. Those medical gentlemen do not, as is well known, take their own medicine; they mix their doses for the dear people, and it is high time the dear people had some notion of what they were taking, and what they were taking it for.

I would not take this matter out of the hands of the profession, still I would put it in the hands of the people. Since both parties share in the profit and loss, I would have them joint partners in the capital stock. I would take the whole range of medical science, and make its general principles the common property of the world.

"That is to say," says brother Doubtful, "you would multiply our works of domestic practice, you would put such a book and a case of medicines in everybody's hands, and make everybody their own physician, and so practically abolish the learned, dignified and privileged class of doctors."

Softly, friend Doubtful, that might be well if it could be done, but we don't contemplate such a *coup d'état*.

Who are our statesmen? Are they less learned, less honoured, less influential because in this enlightened country every man, and not a few women among us, are politicians? Who are our lawyers and judges? Are they degraded because the people study the principles of civil government? Look at our divines. Are they shorn of their strength because the Bible is in every household? Do Sabbath schools detract from the power and influence of the pulpit? Is not this knowledge possessed by the people their very safeguard from evil? Can despots enslave us, or bigots delude us, or villains cheat us while these things are cherished by the people? How can civil despotism or religious intolerance ever rise in our midst except upon the ruin of these unalienable rights of the citizen?

How, then, will a knowledge on the part of the people of the science and art of medicine prove detrimental to the interests of the medical profession? Quacks may tremble at the thought, but not the true medical man. More anon.