

more ideas with the same completeness is to be one of those rare intellectual giants who scarcely appear more than once in a century." This correspondent further says, that the principles which they have elaborated into an Art, "confessedly fallible and fluctuating, require further research and investigation, to secure stability and perfection."

With this acknowledgement, and with so little distinctive doctrine, there can be surely only trifling grounds for complaint at their incorporation with the general profession, not an inconsiderable proportion of the members of which, are in practise as much as Eclectic, as those who formally style themselves of that faith.

It has, however, been from the Homœopathic branch of the Science or Art of Medicine, that the fierce struggle for separation from the Medical Council has proceeded, in aid of which the laity were invoked, and to which appeal they so generously responded. To our mind the writing of defences of Homœopathy by unprofessionals, gives the system an unquestionably empirical aspect, as if in fact medicine was thought to be the only thing to be understood without study or experience, that instead of the most difficult it was the easiest of the sciences. Many of the assembled votaries at the "Queen's Hotel" were, we doubt not, distinguished lawyers and merchants, the ladies, possibly the equals of Mesdames de Sevigne, De Maintenon, and De Stael, in vigor and versality of intellect, nevertheless, we, much question their knowledge of the very elements of all those sciences which lie at the basis of medicine, *i. e.* Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry, and were we Homœopathic doctors, from such knight errants, and gentle evangelists, we should be inclined to exclaim *non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis*. That every one meddles with medicine and that there are few who do not think they know a great deal about it, we will illustrate by the following appropriate story from Jobert's *Erreurs Populaires*: The Duke of Ferrara, Alphonso D'Esle, at one time proposed, in a familiar way, the question, in what calling are most men engaged? One said shoemakers, another tailors, a third carpenters, mariners, petti-foggers and laborers. Gonelle, his famous buffoon, said there were more physicians than any other class of men, and made a bet with the Duke, who denied it, that he would prove it in twenty-four hours. The next morning Gonelle left his lodgings

wearing a great night-cap and a cravat tied around his chin, then a hat over all, and his mantle drawn over his shoulders. In this attire he took a route leading to the place of his Excellency, through Angel Street. The first one he met asked him what was the matter; he replied that he had a raging toothache. Ha! my friend, said the other,

know the best receipt in the world against it, and told it to him. Gonelle inscribed his name on his tablets, pretending that he was writing down his receipt. A step further on he found two or three together, who all asked the same question, and each one gave him a remedy. He inscribed their names as the first; and thus he pursued his course very gingerly to the end of the street, not meeting a single person who did not offer him a receipt different from the rest, each one saying that his was well established, certain, and nearly infallible. He wrote down the names of all coming to the lower court of the palace, he found himself surrounded with gentlemen (for they all knew him), who, after having learned his affliction, compelled him to take their receipts, which each one said was the best in the world. He thanked them all, and wrote down their names. When he entered into the chamber of the Duke, his Excellency cried out, Eh! what have you got Gonelle? He replied very piteously and complainingly, "tooth-ache," the worst that ever was, to which his Excellency replied, ha! Gonelle, I know a thing which will drive off the pain at once, without touching the tooth. Antonio Musa Brussavola has never employed a better one. Do so and so and you will be healed. Suddenly, Gonelle threw down his head dress, and his attire, crying out, "and you also my Lord are a physician! Look at my list and see how many others I have found between my lodgings and your palace. Here are nearly two hundred passing through one street. I will engage to find ten thousand in this city if I go everywhere. Find me as many persons in any other business."

THE FORCEPS IN OBSTETRICS.

No one familiar with current medical literature can fail to observe the change which has at length taken place in the minds of obstetricians, with respect to the use of the forceps. Undoubtedly the tendency is now to use this instrument much oft-