

In summing up the statistics of the profession, he remarks on the comparative increase of mortality and the shorter duration of life among the old and young school of practitioners, and thus addresses his younger hearers, those particularly, we presume, who are in *statu pupilli*:—

Many of them, indeed, died young; and quite a number were carried off by pulmonary consumption. It is truly a sad thing, that in the United States the progress of civilization and science should so violate the laws of health, as to shorten the lives of those who are labouring to promote it. I beseech you, gentlemen, to turn your minds to the correction of those errors of hygiene and education, which lead to this melancholy result.

The first lecture also contains a spirited topographical description of Cincinnati, in its earliest days and its present prosperous condition. In allusion to the difficulties which encompassed the first days of practice, we are told that in 1762 from four to five months were required to effect the importation of a medicine from Philadelphia to Cincinnati! whereas, at this time, "being ordered by telegraph and sent by express, it may be received in two days, of a sixtieth part of the time. Thus science has lengthened seconds into minutes!" On the subject of medical periodical literature, Dr. Drake gives some curious and important information connected with its progress in Britain, the Continent and America, and treats the question of its influence on the public mind and on the progress of medical science in a very philosophical manner. He truly says:—

This gives to journalism in every department of human knowledge a mighty power, which, to its own glory, it has created for itself. Its own hands have placed the crown upon its brow, and given it a dominion over the intellect and feelings of the world, which it will never abdicate, and from which it can never be cast down. Even at the present time, when we can not believe its influence fully developed, its power sets every estimate at defiance, and its extinction would arrest the progress of civilization. But its own growth has been signally promoted by the civilization which it has so remarkably advanced, and of which it is a *pars maxima*. Thus, the ways and means of internal and external personal and national intercourse and conveyance, which constitute distinguished features of modern society, so obviously and powerfully favour the progress of every form and kind of journalism, that in our inquiry after the causes of its extension, magnitude and power, in the middle of the nineteenth century, compared with that of the eighteenth, we are required to ascribe a large influence to agencies entirely material, and connected only with publication and distribution.

This extended journalism, the effect of one revolution in medical science, is becoming the cause of another. Before it was brought into existence, the inventions and discoveries in each country found their way but tardily among its own physicians, and many of them never passed its boundaries. Thus, each nation acquired an idiosyncrasy, which would have been far less strongly marked, if its opinions, prejudices and traditions, had been brought into contact with those of other nations. National peculiarities in pathology and practice, especially the latter, will always exist; but they should be no greater than logically flow from the peculiar, physical and moral conditions of each country, after they have been compared with and neutralized by every other. Now, it is one of the missions of journalism to forward this comparison; and by augmenting the common, to diminish the peculiar.