

according to the narrow rules of a single division—to say the least how manifestly inferior must be their probabilities of success.

We are not the disciples of any one school of medicine. We hold medical truth in its entirety, not in part. There is a saying abroad, and the more ignorant have given it their sanction, that medical men who usurp to themselves legitimacy are allopathists; but it is false, we are physicians. We recognize no party, no eclecticism—we are not of allopathy nor of anti-path; as well might we call ourselves mathematicians or portrait painters, because we profess to explain the power of certain medicines by their material qualities, and represent, occasionally, in the system, a likeness of the disease we wish to remove, as well we repeat, might we assume these names as any other, such as allopathist, which only expresses a single article in our creed. The special appellation is a device of the enemy, of the renegade who has deserted the portals of rational medicine to reside in the gilded dwellings of empiricism,—of he who corrupts the faith of an individual sect by attractive pretensions and spurious blandishments,—as the Homoeopathist who believes in a combination of the “*similia*” postulate with diluted propositions that are an insult to common sense.

Such as these endeavor to impose themselves under some pompous name as the dispensers of a new style of physic. That they may not be overlooked as practitioners of the curative science, they would rob the physician of his fair name, of his rightful title, and award him in its stead, one euphonious with their own, so that the breach between them may not be so apparent; but the chicanery stands revealed in its shallow conceptions, there can be no parity of position or community of circumstances between the two. As truth is indivisible, so also is medicine, for both are built on facts, and these are too stubborn to be warped into any conceit that a heated fancy may picture. We therefore cannot hold any communion with they who prefer following the vain imaginings of their hearts to the teachings of centuries; who prefer the guide of their own speculations, as easier of acquisition, to the experience of the wisest of men extended over multitudes of generations. If they prove too perverse to retrace their steps, they must be resigned to the melancholy fate of infatuation which has overpowered them; and while he beholds them compassionately, the physician, as a duty he owes to himself, must not break down the barrier between he and them, between medicine and empiricism; nor must he ever sully the truth, that there are but two classes of persons who profess to cure the sick, and these are physicians and quacks,—legitimate and illegitimate practitioners,—rationalists and visionaries.