

for another that comes after him, to pull down, who erects one of his own, which is followed for a time, and is then supplanted by another. They have gone on in this way, almost every age producing a new system, to the present time; each one pronounces the other to be wrong, they certainly cannot all be right, and the most natural conclusion is, that they are all wrong; for no good has resulted from all they have done, but on the contrary, it has tended to produce much confusion and doubt, in the minds of all who seek to gain a correct knowledge of the subject. The best evidence of this, is the bad success that has attended the regular faculty in all their practice, for they do not pretend to a knowledge of a certain remedy for any case of disease; and it is readily admitted by the most distinguished men in the profession, that there is no art or science, so little understood and miserably conducted, as that of medicine.

The way to become a fashionable doctor at the present day, is to spend three or four years in what they call reading physic, when they receive a degree and a diploma from some medical society. This time is spent in learning the Latin names of the different preparations of medicine, according to the plan adopted by the faculty, as also of the different parts of the human body, with the names, colors and symptoms of all kinds of disease, divided and subdivided into as many classes and forms as language can be found to express; and sufficient knowledge of the nature of medicine to know how much poison can be given without causing immediate death. With these qualifications and a little self-importance, they commence their medical career, as ignorant of what is really useful in curing disease, as though they had been shut up in a cloister all the time. Their heads are filled with the theory, but all that is most important in the removal of disorder, they have to learn by practice, which can never be learned in any other way. Those patients who are so unfortunate as to come under their care, become subjects for them to learn upon, and have to suffer from their experiments. After pursuing this course for many years, they begin to learn that their practice has been wrong; and it is a fact well known,