
THE MONTREAL MEDICAL GAZETTE.

Omnes artes, quæ ad humanitatem pertinent, habent quoddam commune vinculum, et quasi cognatione quadam inter se continentur.—Cicero.

MONTREAL, JULY 1, 1844.

It was truly remarked by Dr. Clutterbuck, in one of his admirable lectures, "that the progress of our art is impeded by the mystery in which it is involved; that the public know hardly any thing of its real nature, and think it consists merely in the exhibition of nauseous drugs."

Daily experience abundantly proves, that so long as any particular theory or art is enveloped in a certain degree of mystery, so long will the supporters of that theory, or the practitioners of that art, be able to carry on their covert dealings, and impose upon the unwary, the partially educated and the ignorant portion of mankind, with a certain degree of success; and each sect will continue to exercise their sway, until, by some unlucky accident, some new doctrine is broached, which, in its turn, conveys to the minds of the same portion of humanity some most extraordinary illuminating influence, and which all of a sudden satisfies them that all their previous opinions were founded in error; or perhaps exhibiting some more captivating feature in its mode of mystifying its victims, succeeds for a time in carrying to their empty brains an amount of conviction, that *this* last and its advocates can alone be right, and that all others must of necessity be wrong. Medicine, practised purely as an art, as a *moyen de vivre*, by clever but designing and inconsistent men, affords the most abundant field for carrying on these deceptions. Every one can feel pain; every one is forced to submit to the inconvenience, if not to the distress, induced by faulty performance of function, or absolute organic lesion. Such an one seeks not to know the cause of this inconvenience or suffering, unless it be to such an extent as actually to make him dread that death is becoming too near a neighbour of his own tabernacle of clay; he flies for relief; it matters not to him, whether he obtain it from an educated or ignorant man, so long as the painful sensation is removed—that is the ultima tiule of his wishes—that is the one thing needed—