

furnish that which the public needs in the way of moral support. The old saying was, "*Ubi tres medici, ibi duo athei*"—"Three doctors, two atheists"—and in the days when dissection was a profaning of the image of God and chemistry only the black art, the clergy and the people too may, perhaps, be excused for having believed the physician, who was almost the sole student of natural phenomena, to be unorthodox and hostile to religion and even to good morals. This feeling persists in a modified form very widely, and the fault is partly ours, or how could the genial Mr. Dooley, of Chicago, believe that, as he puts it, "If only the christian scientist had a little more science, and the doctors a little more christianity, a sick man would be well enough with either of them, if only he had a good nurse." I believe that it is more than a mere coincidence that just when the healing art is becoming more of a science than even forty years ago had ever been dreamt of, these forms of irregular practice, by occultism of one sort or another, and the mixture of religion and medicine seen in spiritualism and christian science, should have become so prevalent. They flourish chiefly in urban communities and are quite exotic in the rural, and their prevalence is greater in Germany, the home of scientific medicine, than elsewhere, if there is any truth in the statistics published in that country this summer, when a strong attempt was made by legislative enactment to put them down. It is more than a mere coincidence that in rural communities where these isms do not flourish the general practitioner still holds sway, while in the cities he has largely been supplanted by the specialist, so that the family that has half a dozen doctors entering their home in the course of as many months has no familiar trusted mentor and friend to whom to go in times when they are hesitating between the priest and the doctor. Of course there are other reasons for the prevalence of quackery, and among them the belching press which unloads tons of undigested and indigestible Philistine stuff upon the public, filling them with the idea that they are highly educated and really capable of an intelligent opinion on all ethical and medical questions. What could good old Sir Thomas Brown have said to-day, when two hundred and seventy years ago he thus bewailed that new German invention, the printing press:—"It is not a melancholy wish of my own, but the desire of better heads that there were a general synod, not to unite the incompatible difference of religion, but for the benefit of learning, to reduce it as it lay at first, in a few and solid authors; and to condemn to the fire those swarms and millions of rhapsodies begotten only to distract and abuse the weaker judgment of scholars, and to maintain the trade and mystery of typographers."