

In Europe medicine was never able to absolve itself from the dicta of the church. In the fourteenth century the Roman Catholic Church restricted the practice of medicine solely to educated physicians. It proclaimed, "that any woman that dared to heal others without having studied was a Witch and should therefore die." (Mitchelet's *Witches of the Middle Ages*, p. 15.) During the reign of Henry VIII., Parliament enacted that practitioners were "to be licensed by the Bishop of London or the Dean of St. Paul." (Knight's *History of England*, vol ii., p. 498.)

During the long reign of the church, the "Dark Ages" supervened, the inquisition was established; ignorance, superstition and bigotry kept pace with the power of the church; Wars were instigated, kings dethroned, states with their people destroyed, heretics tortured and put to death, or incarcerated, never to see friends or the light of day!

Massacres were invoked and perpetrated, all in the interests of the church and the name of religion! Human selfishness ran riot; none were safe: the foundation of society seemed about to break up and the gates of hell about to open to engulf a helpless world! The practice of the teachings of the Christ had no place; the brotherhood of man no advocates; the liberty of the glorious gospel was a myth, even in the church which professed his name!

The medical profession became imbued with the malevolent and relentless spirit of its foster mother, and still cultivates it in these modern times and in this free? land!

Then came the Protestant Reformation, with its basic principle expressed by Luther: "Private judgment is the right and duty of every man," and "the mightiest movement in the thought of mankind, since the rise of Christianity over the ruins of paganism, began," and not only religious but civil affairs, except medicine, were imbued with and manifested the spirit of freedom from the rule of the sceptre, mitre and fagot: and the domination of the church over the minds and bodies of men was broken.

Our forefathers brought this spirit, these principles of freedom with them, to this, then New World, where was put