

other by stimulants. Up to comparatively recent times physicians mixed up their *materia medica* with the occult sciences, witch-craft, and demonology, and depended more upon dreams, charms, incantations, and the touch of royal and other privileged personages than upon *materia medica* properly so called.

The Pharmacy of early days was rude in the extreme, and comprised all the abominations of a witches' cauldron. The flesh, blood, brains and excrement of birds, mammals and reptiles were freely prescribed; and such vegetable agents as were employed were of the most violent drastic character, and in the crudest form. The art of the Apothecary was unknown, and chemistry unheard of. Rhazes and Avicenna, two Arabian Physicians, introduced chemistry into medicine about A. D., 1,000, and from that time Pharmacy has improved until the refinements of the present day has resulted as an era of wonderful achievement.

Coming now to our own more immediate time, how are the medical men of our day discharging the great trust transmitted to them? Has the mantle of the illustrious past fallen upon our times? Without arrogance we think it has. If the resources of the 19th century are boundless,—these resources have all been utilized; and, as a natural consequence, great strides onward have been taken. The surgery of our day has become eminently conservative—the medicine as eminently eclectic. The limb that 50 years ago would unhesitatingly have been amputated, is now restored to usefulness. The fever-stricken patient, who would have been bled, blistered, and purged off the face of the earth, is now, by the adoption of a more rational treatment, nourished and restored to health. The discovery of chloroform by Simpson has banished, never to return, the implements of torture of the operating table, the sight and adjustment of which were enough to appall the stoutest hearted patient. I have seen operations and have operated without chloroform, and, of course, with it, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that it is necessary to experience the difference in order to be in a position to rightly estimate this priceless boon.

Great improvement has also been made recently in the mode of performing capital operations, and in the manner of controlling hemorrhage, by the substitution of metallic ligatures and acupressure, for the old methods. But, notwithstanding all that has been gained—notwithstanding the marvelous revelations of the micro-