

mal type, the individual is said to be no longer in a state of health, but to be ill, sick, or in a state of disease.

Considered as an abstract fact, it cannot be doubted that *nature* possesses the power of curing disease, in other words, that diseases often terminate in recovery without the interference of art. Yet it must be acknowledged that the public generally, not excepting even the literary and scientific classes, are grossly ignorant upon this subject.

Sir John Forbes in his defence of nature justly remarks, that: "Perhaps there is hardly anything in the whole range of ordinary every-day knowledge—that is, knowledge with which everyone is more or less conversant and familiar—which is so little understood by men in general, as the real nature of the medical art, and its actual power in ministering to the relief and cure of disease."

This ignorance is manifested both in public and in private, by the falsest and most absurd notions, supported by arguments oftentimes deliriously ridiculous. That omnipotent monosyllable, *Facts! Facts! Facts!* is shouted by every triumphant disputant, into the ears of sceptics and disbelievers. Dame Nature is ignored—the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* error is sounded, the patient made use of the remedy and got well, therefore the remedy cured him. Such *facts* are to be found in abundance under the reported cures by the "*Royal touch*," "*The Weapon Ointment*," "*The Sympathetic Powder*," "*The Metallic Tractors*," "*Homœopathy*;" *et hoc genus omne*, cures attributed by all sound reasoners, to the power of nature, not to the remedy employed.

In looking for evidence in favour of the curability of diseases by nature, we shall commence our inquiry by citing the fact, that in the case of fatal epidemics among inferior animals, all affected with the disease do not die, consequently those restored to health without treatment of any kind, must be restored by the power of nature alone. We also know that wounds and injuries of various kinds, in wild and domesticated animals, get well without treatment. It is true, we cannot assert that the power of healing, exists in the same degree in man, that it does in animals, but it is a fact that a similar power exists in both.

No people have yet been discovered among whom there is not the semblance of a medical art. Yet the art among most savage nations is so rude, that cures taking place under it must be referred to nature; and the reports of travellers leave no doubt that the cures are many. For instance, we are told that in the Tonga Islands, if a "middling great man" is ill, a finger or two of one