

empiric. She has learned to cure by what the comparative psychologist calls the "method of trial and error." Conquests over sickness acquired purely as result of experience, without help either from a priori or from inductive reasoning. And great and glorious is the role of her achievement on these lines. Of her humanitarian triumphs probably still—certainly until a generation ago—the greater share is assignable to this part. The use of quinine in malaria, the curative effects of the iodides and various metals, the discovery of chloroform and ether as anaesthetics, these and the names of a long line of famous physicians from the renaissance down to some as justly famous as the past, and with us now to-day suffice to certify the inestimable gifts that medicine as empiric has given to mankind in his suffering. This face of medicine well may wear a garland.

In her other aspect, medicine is not an empiric but a scientist. Who will refute me if I assert that medicine is as well an art as a science. Somewhere it is said that woman is the last thing that man will ever civilize. So the scientific aspect, the male face of two visaged medicine, thinks of that female face, the empiric, with whom his lot is linked. He feels sometimes that his other half is the last thing science will ever render wholly rational. By dint of patient toil he improves her practice by showing her reason now and then. No sooner that than she is off on a fresh flight into the inexplicable, and he must cudgel his brains anew to find her a fresh logical position.

The feminine, ever youthful trait in medicine, has to the student an undying charm. But on the whole, the countenance of medicine has of recent years, for the student, become masculinely severe. This head of medicine has indeed become the larger. Hydrocephalic in appearance though it may be, it is filled, not with water, but with reasoned facts. The development proceeds in the main from certain data acquired in the century just passed. For instance, the chemist, in discovering that all the million-sided chemical diversity of the perceptible universe is composed from a few—some 70—substances, therefore called elemental, discovered also that living matter, instead of containing elements different from or subtler than those of the dead world, consists of just a few of those very same ones. Further, the doctrine of the indestructibility of matter was demonstrated in a new form, namely, as the destructibility of energy, and the convertibility of any one form of energy into other forms. Thus, dead and living matter become united as subject material for study. It became really possible to consider the living body as a chemical and physical machine, a machine to which the laws of chemistry and physics can be applied.