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## A Plea for a Popular Medical Science.

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I WISH I could make it "as plain as a pike-staff" that "all the world, and the rest of mankind," should inform themselves about medical matters; and by this I do not mean merely the compounding and prescribing of drugs, for this would hardly be required of any one were the people better informed. For I hold it as an axiom that the more ignorant people are of the structure of their bodies and the laws of health the more drugs they consume. Doctors, when sick, take very little medicine, because they know better; but most people when sick consume a large amount of medicine because they do not know any better.

I never saw a physician in active practice who did not complain that he was obliged often times to give a good deal more medicine than he desired to, and all because the prejudices of the people required it. But why do not people seek after such knowledge? Medical art is not a secret. There is no end to medical text books. As for medical journals, they may be had in all sizes and shapes, and at all prices. But who reads them but the doctors? The people take our prescriptions, thankful that they do not have to peruse our literature. We deny to no man information upon these subjects, but we are morally sure that unless he intends to enter the profession he will never trouble himself about our text books.

I don't believe there is an intelligent person living who does not at times desire to have a knowledge of the facts of anatomy and physiology. Anna Dickenson says she never saw a woman who did not wish she were a man; and I am sure I never saw a man who did not wish he were a doctor, and the same desire possesses most of the women and children. These persons do not desire to practice medicine, but they covet the knowledge of the medical profession.