

stances known and appreciated by medical men, and those who have studied the subject. The direct uses of Botany are seen in the selection of plants proper for the food of man, or such as yield him valuable timber, cordage, matting, materials for useful and ornamental household furniture, condiments and medicines; and of late years great acquisitions have been made in this way, by men, scientifically instructed, who have travelled through remote regions, with the especial mission of seeking such vegetable productions as might prove serviceable to the civilized world in any of these respects.

The study of Zoology and Animal Physiology has been of the most immediate benefit to mankind, as seen in the improved modes of dealing with all animals domesticated for their use, and in the artificial stocking of rivers with fish valuable as food; but it is perhaps through the Physician that the greatest blessings have been conferred by attention to these sciences. Physiology has gone hand in hand with morality and religion in pointing out the danger of using intoxicating liquors; it has thrust upon men's attention the necessity of caring for ventilation and cleanliness; the application of its laws to the treatment of insanity has effected a total revolution in the modes adopted, and been the means of restoring many a sadly afflicted person to the world, fit to discharge its responsible duties, who would, under the old system, have passed away bereft of reason. Indeed, by the very proper stress which has been of late laid upon the study of these sciences in Medical Schools, the whole art of Medicine may be said to have been raised from empiricism towards the rank of the true sciences.

It requires, I think, but a consideration of the benefits directly showered upon mankind by Chemistry and Natural History, and a general view of the widely extending scope of their objects, to convince every one that an acquaintance at least with the principles of these sciences is necessary to enable us to understand the nature of the age in which we live, and that to omit any attention to these principles in a system of instruction is to forfeit entirely the claim to entitle such a system, a scheme of Liberal Education. If it be objected that so vast a subject cannot be taught completely in so brief a time as can be afforded, I would answer that the idea is never entertained of completely exhausting these subjects in a college course, but there is time for obtaining such a general acquaintance with the principles as shall enable a diligent student on leaving this place to stand upon fair terms in any society, and advantageously pursue any special or professional study. I know it is said, that

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring:"

and I agree with the poet if he means a little ill-assorted knowledge; but I think a little well-arranged knowledge may, when properly used, become a great blessing. Our knowledge gained in the season devoted entirely to its acquisition may be elementary, but it need not be shallow. What man who