

never have originated Brown's doctrines, and although the time of schools and systems has passed away, two nations still cling instinctively each to the tenets of its once national faith, so that the self-same disease which in England would probably be treated with beef-tea and those spirituous stimulants so dear to the British heart, might still be attacked, on this side of the Alps, with the lancet and the everlasting tamarind-water.

Italy, and especially Tuscany, can boast of many clever physicians, some of whom are eminent and erudite men, quite *au courant* of the scientific achievements all over the world, and who cannot be accused of lagging behind their age—men who have outgrown systems and schools, and who would never own allegiance to any one of them. Moreover, the Italians, like all Latin races, are notoriously deficient in what phrenological slang calls the “organ of veneration,” and are naturally not much disposed to bow to any authority. But it seems that national pride amply makes up for this deficiency, and causes them to do more than justice to those in whom they see contributors to the past or present glories of their country. I have, when at Naples, heard the quaint apophthegms of the Salernitan school most unctuously expounded in the lecture room, and the students evidently felt the prouder, if not the wiser, for it. And as to Rasori and Tommasini, their doctrines, although apparently ostracised, are still preached under a different garb, and right heartily practised; and, where they are not fully carried out, it is merely a concession made, and that reluctantly, to the ruling spirit of the age. I remember a clinical *matinée* at the Santo Spirito Hospital, in Rome, where a Professor V. took occasion to open his heart on this subject. We were stopping at a certain ward (I have forgotten the name of the protecting Saint) which contained none but tuberculous patients, who occupied about one-half of the beds. “I can recollect the time,” said the professor, who was an old man, “when this ward had scarcely two or three inmates at once, and sometimes remained empty for weeks, while now it is often full, and never less than half filled, with consumptive patients. This is a curious fact which can only be explained by therapeutic innovations, there being no reason to suppose that a change of climate or an alteration of other hygienic circumstances sufficient to account for these facts, should have taken place within so short a time. But, he continued, as pneumonia has always been of very frequent occurrence at Rome, it is only rational to assume that the statistics of tuberculosis must, in the long run, be dependent on the mode of treatment habitually used for pulmonary and bronchial inflammations. Now, when I was a young man, and Rasori's principles were still professed by almost every physician, pneumonia was cured with bleeding, and nothing but bleeding, and the bleeding was repeated until the blood let no longer showed any signs of the phlogistic crust, and it was this that prevented hepatization and formation of tubercles.”

It requires no lawyer's wit to use this plea against the pleader, and to come to the opposite conclusion, that the present increase of tuberculous diseases in Italy may be the result of the Sangrado treatment employed by the Rasorianists against the pneumonias of the former generation—not to speak of the increase due to the improved diagnosis by the physical examination of the chest, which must have some influence on these statistics. The spacious hall of the ground floor was filled with a double row of beds, all occupied by persons affected with some thoracic inflammation! The mortality then was very great indeed, in spite of the repeated bleedings practised on every one of the patients, and as to the survivors, I wonder whether they were indebted to their medical attendants for their escape from tuberculosis.—*For. Cor. London Med. Times and Gazette.*