

is as generally admitted. Thus it is. Theories rise and fall ; and medicines, which belonged to observed facts we might suppose to be better grounded, pass through the same phase ; to-day used, and commended as efficacious, to-morrow neglected or condemned.

No doubt a few active or powerful minds lead to such results. By their force they set the new system in motion, and the mass follow ; and the followers of a sect are always more inclined than the founders to push systematic opinions to the most absurd extreme ; "and if we are to believe the recorded results of therapeutic research, conducted under complicated conditions, we shall be obliged to admit that the same diseases have equally well been cured by the interposition of the gods—by witchery and priestcraft—by the most sanguinary and antiphlogistic and by the most mild and expectant treatment ; by remedies founded on the rational pathology of the disease ; by the administration of infinitesimal parts of nothing ; by peppermint water and bread pills. Each and all of those diverse plans of treatment have had their advocates, who bring forward in their favor accumulated masses of evidence."

There can be no effect without a cause. But the difficulty is to determine, amid the complicated actions of the human body, what is the cause. And yet there must be some one or other which shall be efficient in the varying systems of treatment. For if similiar results are attained, are we not compelled to admit that nature asserts *her* supremacy, and, in spite of the errors perpetrated, rises superior to the depressing agencies arrayed against her ? Men become the subject of disease, and under every system throw off the morbid state and resume a healthy condition. Many a nostrum has been used and proved apparently successful in the hands of the regular practitioner, and frequently the thorough empiric can parade the cures which have attended his panacea. And both the regular and the empiric have succeeded, not because their remedies were beneficial in themselves (in many cases they may have been