

Medicine.

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# Medicine

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## Medicine

Why did medicine exist? It was born of human sympathy, it sprang from the heart of man and was an evidence of humanity. It survived because its purpose was an end much sought by all. Medicine came in response to the cry of human suffering and took its rise in the practical needs of mankind.

Pain was the first lesson in the book of evil which most human beings learned of in the bitterness of sorrow. Greater, by far, than the mystery of life was the mystery of death. "In the human ovum which neither chemistry nor the microscope can distinguish from the common mammalian ovum, there dwells physical potentialities, species, races, family, and individuality. In that ovum is the assured promise of that goes to make up a perfect organism."

What, then, is man but simply a germ, evolving higher powers, and destined for a purer and nobler existence! His latent life secretly energies from mysterious obscurity, is incarnated, and torn upon the flowing stream of time to a spiritual destination - to realms of immortality! As he nears those ever-blooming shores, the eye of faith, illuminated by the inspired word, dimly discerns the perennial glories. Quickened by Faith, Hope, and Love, his spirit is transplanted into the garden of paradise, the Eden of happiness, redeemed, perfected, and made glorious in the divine image of Him who hath said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." With what ceaseless care and watchless anxiety is this organism called man guarded and gradually brought to see and perhaps realize his destiny. And this is the end of medicine, to so care for and keep in perfect repair the material man, that the body may, indeed, become the sacred abode of the immortal soul. But since the beginning of time, dissipation and disease have ever

haunted and hung on the flanks of the human army.

Health and disease are physical conditions upon which pleasure and pain, success and failure, depend. Every individual gain increases public gain and advances the public welfare. The prosperity of a nation depends upon the health of its people. Health increases every value and enhances every joy. Life is incomplete without the enjoyment of healthy organs and faculties, for these give rise to the delightful sensations of existence. Health is essential to the accomplishment of every purpose; while sickness thwarts the best intentions and loftiest aims. Unto each one of us are committed important health trusts, which we hold not merely for our own welfare but also for the benefit of future generations. If we faithfully discharge the obligations of our trusteeship, we shall enjoy present strength, usefulness, and longevity; but if we fail in this performance, then inefficiency, incapacity, and sickness will surely follow, the

sequel of which is pain and death. We are continually deciding upon those conditions which are either the source of joy and happiness, or which occasion pain and disease. And alas, much too often our choice of what we think gives us joy and happiness measures out to us only pain and disease. We as a people are coming to live in the gratification of artificial wants. Some indulge in the use of food rendered unwholesome by bad cookery, and think more of gratifying a morbid appetite than of supplying the body with proper nourishment. Others devote unnecessary attention to the display of dress and a genteel figure, yielding themselves completely to the sway of fashion. Such intemperance in dress and diet, sooner or later manifests itself in the general appearance of the unfortunate transgressor, and exposes his folly to the world, with little less precision than certain vices signify their presence by a tobacco-tainted breath, beer-stained body, rum-embellished nose, and many kindred manifestations.

People "coddle" themselves instead of practicing self-denial, and perhaps deceive themselves into thinking that the chief end of life is gratification, rather than useful endeavor. Naturally then man seeks for some renewer of health and renovator of vigor. Here comes into play the science of medicine. Indeed so prevalent is the seeking of this source of relief that it is said that this desire to take medicine is, perhaps, the great feature which distinguishes man from other animals. Why this appetite should have developed, how it could have grown to its present dimensions, what it will ultimately reach, are interesting problems in psychology.

Among primitive peoples medicine and religion are one, the priest and the physician being the same person. The medicine man of the Indian tribe is the prophet, priest, and physician of his people. The invention of medicine was almost universally attributed to the gods by the ancients. In so the Egyptian and



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Grecian mythology, we find female deities occupying important relations to the healing art. According to Grecian mythology Esculapus was the god of medicine. In the prescientific period of all peoples, health is supposed to be a blessing and disease a curse, direct from the gods. Prayers and sacrifices were the means by which the gods were placated, the priest professing to sustain intimate relations to the gods and to have great influence with them. When a race progresses out of absolute barbarism, the people begin to doubt the pretensions of the priests, and to question whether or not there may be some relation between disease and physical causes. Medicine and Religion begin to be divorced, and the priests and physicians henceforth constitute two classes. The first now becomes physician to the soul, and the other is the physician to the body. The one is a doctor of Divinity and the other a doctor of medicine.

Egyptian physicians were celebrated in the orient of antiquity before the

spreading of the Grecian sciences. They are mentioned in the *Odyssey*, and Herodotus speaks of them. In order to secure the respect due to their sciences Egyptian physicians simply dated the medical traditions back to the very origin of Egyptian civilization, and told romantic stories about their discovery. The medical papyri of Egypt, like the treatises of the middle ages, contain traditional remedies based on empirical deductions, and not always to be despised, mystical prescriptions founded on the strangest analogies and magical practices which originated in most remote antiquity. From the earliest times women have successfully grappled with a most difficult branch of the work, gynecology; but a long and deep-seated prejudice prevented an extension of their practice and ordinarily they were forbidden the acquirement of such knowledge. The story of the birth of Moses shows that female gynecologists were not unknown in those times. In ancient Egypt, it formed a part of the priestly functions, and was concealed from the

ignorant common people and especially from the women. In all, however, the medical knowledge of the Egyptians tho' considerably compared with that of other ancient peoples, was, as may be gathered from the fragments of their nosology and therapeutic formularies that have come down to us, but little above the traditional lore in such matters with which all women have in all ages been credited.

The practical mind of Greece began by trying with Hippocrates to see things as they really were, but later fell away into the making of systems and the spinning of cobwebs of theory instead of observing facts.

The Romans had for medicine and its professors a robust contempt. In the later days of the Republic the medicine man brought his physic as well as his philosophy to the great market of Rome, and under the Empire they flourished exceedingly. Medicine itself, however, was at its best, a mere empiric art, and in this condition it remained practically until Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood in 1628 laid the corner-stone of modern physiology, and thus prepared a foundation

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for a scientific medicine.

The history of medicine may be divided into three grand eras. In the first the practice of the healing art was merely empiricism. Ignorant priests or astrologers administered <sup>the</sup> drugs, concerning the properties of which they had no knowledge, to appease the wrath of mythological deities. In the second or heroic era, the lancet, mercury, antimony, opium, and the plaster were employed indiscriminately as the "sine qua non" of medical practice. The third or the present age, with all its scientific knowledge of the human structure and functions, and its vast resources for remedying disease, may be aptly termed the liberal era of medicine.

We have now reached a point where medicine can justly be called a science, where certain men or groups of men follow out in their work certain definite systems of treating disease, and it seems appropriate that we now present the principles and theories of the most important schools or sects of which there are three.

The Allopathic, Regular or Old School of medicine is the oldest existing branch of the profession. To it is due the credit of collecting and arranging the facts and discoveries which form the foundation of the healing art. It is doing much and has in the past accomplished much to place the science of medicine on a firm basis. Every student who would qualify himself for medical practice must resort to the text-books of this school to gain that knowledge upon which depends his future success. The early practice of this branch of the profession was necessarily crude and empirical. The school is founded upon the theory of "Contraria contrariis curantur", i. e., it seeks to cure a disease by superinducing another of a different kind, or by producing a condition incompatible with the disease. It differs from the other schools in this and in the application of remedies. It is very conservative in its character, and has ever been slow to recognize new theories and methods of practice, and usually has failed to adopt them.

until they have been incontrovertibly established. This conservative nature was plainly manifested in the opposition to Harvey when he propounded the theory of the circulation of the blood, and to Jenner when he discovered and demonstrated the beneficial effects of vaccination. Thus it has ever defended its established opinions against innovation; yet out of this very conservatism has grown much real good, for altho it has wasted no time or energy in the investigation of theories, yet it has accepted them when established. In this manner it has added to its fund of knowledge only those truths which are real and of intrinsic value. In its ranks are found men indefatigable in their labors, delving deep into the mysteries of nature, and who for their scientific attainments and humane principles are justly considered ornaments to society and to their profession.

The Homœopathic school of medicine is of comparatively recent origin, yet it has gained a powerful influence upon public

favor. This fact alone, if there were no others, would seem to indicate that it possesses some merit. The system was founded by Hahnemann before the opening of this century. Its law of cure according to its founder is the doctrine of "similia similibus curantur" or "like cures like". "Its method of treatment is founded upon the assumption that if a drug be given to a healthy person, symptoms will develop which, if transpiring in disease would be mitigated by the same drug." The other schools experience considerable difficulty in accepting this doctrine, yet it cannot be denied that it contains some elements of truth. Impaired with the spirit of progressiveness many of its most intelligent and successful followers have resorted to the use of appreciable quantities of medicine. The members of this school associate hydropathy with their practice, and usually inculcate rigid dietetic and hygienic regulations. A large number of their remedies are thoroughly triturated with sugar of milk, which renders them more palatable and efficacious.

Whether we attribute their cures to the infinitesimal doses which many Homoeopaths employ, to their principles of disease and its cure, to good nursing, or to the power of nature, it is nevertheless true that their practice is measurably successful. No doubt the Homoeopathic practice has modified and influenced that of other schools by proving that diseases may be alleviated by smaller quantities of medicine than were formerly employed, and by laying special emphasis on the necessity of rigid dietetic and hygienic conditions.

The third and most recent important school of medicine is the Eclectic founded by Wooster Beach. It instituted the most strenuous opposition to the employment of mercury, antimony, the blister, and the lancet. The followers of this new sect proclaimed that the action of heroic and noxious medicines was opposed to the operation of the vital forces, and proposed to substitute in their place safer and more efficacious agents, derived exclusively from the vegetable



medica. But, all in all, of the three schools, the Eclectic is by far the most progressive and the least dogmatic. They are free i.e., not restricted by their sect as the followers of the other schools are, to choose those remedies which after careful and thorough investigation have proved most valuable. Unless the old schools become decidedly more tolerant and openminded, it would seem in this age of progressiveness, that the victory must ultimately rest with the Eclectics. For the supremacy of Rational Medicine, which is the field of the Eclectic is inevitable.

One hundred years ago, the practice of medicine and means to preserve health, so far as these were really effectual, were as they had been since the beginning—mainly empirical—i.e., certain effects were known to follow the giving of certain drugs, or the application of certain measures, but why or how these effects were produced was unknown. Indeed it may be said that the medical

paternity knew little more than the great man whose name is inseparately connected with the foundation of medicine, Hippocrates, who certainly knew very little, indeed practically nothing of anatomy and physiology. An example, perhaps, may suffice to bring into clear relief the extreme ignorance of the early practitioners as compared with those of today. A man suffers from amblyopia i. e., weakness of sight. Two pig's eyes are crushed and in the liquid thus obtained honey, collyrium, etc., are dissolved and the solution put into the patient's ear.

There was much faith in the curative power of the various animal excrements and these materials entered into the composition of many of their supposed medicinal mixtures. Perhaps it may be said that these illustrations are not truly representative, but such treatments were certainly very popular in early times, and, indeed, we would reluctantly say that equally absurd methods are not entirely unemployed, even at the present time. A century ago,

nothing was known of the difference between typhus and typhoid fevers. We have now discovered that the first is a disease propagated largely by aerial contagion and induced by overcrowding; the preventive mean being isolation, light and fresh air; while the second is due to a minute vegetable organism, a bacillus, and is propagated mainly by contaminated water, milk, food, and clothing; and that the treatment of the two diseases should be different. Accurate regional anatomy has rendered practicable the exploration of the most hidden parts of the organism, and the determination during life of morbid changes in them; anatomical and histological post-mortem examinations have supplied physicians with a clear basis upon which to rest the classification of diseases, and with unerring test of the accuracy or inaccuracy of their diagnosis. No part of the human organism, however, minute and obscure has escaped this investigation.

One of the greatest advances made in the art of healing during the last

sixty years is the expansion of the scope of surgery, and this progress is due to two discoveries unequalled in the previous history of the healing art — anaesthesia, or the artificial abolition of pain; and antiseptis, or the prevention of infectious processes in wounds. There are plenty of men still living who can testify as to the horrors of operations before the discovery of anaesthesia. The terrible pain caused by operations prevented their being undertaken except as a last resort, and many patients preferred death to the surgeon's knife.

Men otherwise well fitted to advance surgery were prevented from devoting themselves to it by their inability to inflict or witness pain.

In September 1846, W. J. G. Morton, a dentist of Boston, made a man unconscious by breathing sulphuric ether, and extracted a tooth without the patient feeling any pain. This opened the way and it began to be used for amputations. In 1847, Simpson of Edinburgh used ether for the relief of the pains of labor. Not being entirely satisfied with it he sought for some other substance having the properties

of annulling sensation, and in November of the same year announced that chloroform was a more effective anaesthetic. The Queen of England, with characteristic courage, submitted to what was then a somewhat hazardous experiment of allowing herself to be made insensible with Chloroform at the birth of the Duke of Albany. Her example had a powerful effect in dispelling the fears and prejudices, as to the use of such agents, which then existed in the minds of many. There was a strong opposition from some surgeons who held that pain was a wholesome stimulus. The employment of this anaesthetic was condemned by some as being "merely to avert the ordinary amount of pain which the Almighty had seen fit - and most wisely we cannot doubt - to elicit to natural labor." One philanthropic divine anathematized chloroform as "a decoy of Satan apparently offering itself to bless women, but which will harden society, and rob God of the deep earnest cries which arise in time of trouble for help." Simpson answered these perhaps

innocently ignorant people according to their folly. He cited Scripture to prove that the Almighty Himself performed the first operation under anaesthesia, when He cast Adam into a deep sleep before removing his rib. He finally shamed his opponents into silence, after presenting an overwhelming mass of evidence—chemical, physiological, clinical, and statistical. Nor is it surgery alone that has been revolutionized by this splendid discovery; medicine, therapeutics, pathology, and physiology which constitute the foundation on which the treatment of disease rests—have all been immensely advanced by it.

The second great factor in the development of surgery has been the application of the germ theory of putrefaction to the treatment of wounds. The recognition of the importance of bacteria has revolutionized the practice of surgery and gynecology. It had long been noted that even serious injuries where the skin was not broken were usually dealt with successfully; whereas open wounds of trivial character

often festered and not infrequently gave rise to blood-poisoning. For the setting forth of this theory, Joseph Lister is justly venerated by the whole medical world. The cardinal point in his teaching was "that wounds will in the absence of any disturbing influence, constitutional or accidental, remain sweet and heal kindly, if contamination from without is prevented." The theory is that such contamination is caused by micro-organisms. The results of the application of this principle are convincingly evident in every department of surgical practice.

In the work of amputation pyæmia is now almost unknown, and hospital gangrene, a justly dreaded scourge, is almost extinct. In the operation for the radical cure of hernia, which is surprisingly prevalent, the results are even more striking. A decade ago, on account of its fatality, it was considered to be almost outside the pale of legitimate surgery, but now it is one of the most successful of operations. The doctrine of surgical cleanliness has played a wonderful part in the progress

of the treatment of diseases of the abdominal organs. Ovariectomy, which owing to its terrible fatality, had fallen into utter discredit has been brought within the sphere of orthodox surgery. Diseases of all kinds of the male and female generative organs are now successfully treated. Perforation of the intestines, one of the most formidable complications of typhoid fever has been successfully treated in a few cases. Appendicitis is a common operation. The nervous system has been brought within the range of surgical art. Tumors on the brain and even portions of that organ are successfully removed. The "tripod of life," (the brain, the heart, and the lungs) are now within the sphere of conquest. In the domain of obstetric medicine the brilliant arch of promise sparkles on the brow of the coming morn. A great diminution in the mortality of child-bed has been realized. The modern surgeon clad in antiseptics defies the rattle rout of microbes and dares things which only a short time ago were looked upon as beyond the wildest dreams of scientific



enthusiasm."

The improvement of medicine which deals mainly with internal diseases, has been chiefly in the direction of precision of diagnosis. This has been largely promoted by the invention of instruments for the examination of parts hidden from the unaided eye. It has also helped in the diagnosis of affections of the brain, nervous system and kidneys.

Electricity holds an important place in the treatment of disease. It is much used in surgery to alleviate pain. As a tonic in certain cases it is scarcely equalled. In the form of an electric searchlight it renders possible the exploration of the interior of the stomach, bladder and other hollow organs. The possibilities of the use of electricity in medicine are as yet but slightly developed.

The laryngoscope has made possible the effective treatment of the upper part of the windpipe and chest. The stethoscope has given to the diagnosis of diseases of the heart and lungs a degree of refinement never dreamed of by the inventor of

auscultation. The sphygmograph and cardiograph record the pulse and heart beats. The clinical thermometer has become the physician's most trustworthy danger signal not only in medicine but also in surgery and obstetrics. The spectroscope and haematocytometer, an instrument for counting the blood corpuscles enable us to determine the exact condition of the blood. The ordinary microscope has revealed to us a world of knowledge. The chemical laboratory has become a necessary part of the consultation room. It is especially important in the detection of Bright's disease and diabetes. The Röntgen rays, the possibilities of which are by no means developed, or perhaps even realized, enable us to ascertain the number of nails, pins, and buttons we have swallowed during our mischievous childhood. The importance of this discovery in the treatment of some diseases and in locating bullets or other foreign materials cannot be overestimated. The writer has in mind a case in this college where forty-eight common shot were found imbedded in a

young man's wrist.

Another important indication of progress is the extent to which specialization is carried on. There are now few physicians or surgeons who are not acknowledged specialists in some particular phase of the work.

Another great advance is in the knowledge of the nature <sup>and</sup> cause of disease. To this end, the development of physiology has largely contributed. The gradual decline of ignorant prejudices has allowed more extensive study of the healthy organism. Here vivisection has played a grand part. As in the introduction of the use of anaesthetics there was strenuous opposition to advancement by a prejudiced and misled public sentiment. At first, those who even dared so much as to talk favorably of vivisection were derided, scorned, and socially ostracised. It certainly requires no professional training to comprehend that a knowledge of the bodily functions in their normal state is essential for the correct understanding and

accurate treatment of those derangements of function which constitute disease, and that physiology and anatomy which deal with these normal functions, must therefore, form the basis upon which medical science and medical practice alike must rest. The physiologist can hope to advance firmly and successfully to the discovery of the laws of life only on condition that the experimental method supplies the stepping stones for his progress.

"Self-evident as this proposition seems to the student of nature's laws, many people are ready to deny the legitimacy of the experimental method of research when applied to living bodies, while they admit it to be absolutely indispensable in the case of non-living matter." Long and carefully prepared statements, setting forth the necessity of animal experimentation for the advancing of medical science — the vast amount of good already brought about, and the relatively small amount of suffering involved — are treated as falsehoods from a set of "cowardly

criminals" who practice vivisection. Yet some of these people unhesitatingly submit themselves to physical suffering for the sake of future benefit, which they think will outweigh the torture of present pain. Happily has it been for mankind that thus these periods of criticism and opposition there have been "some strong souls who could see behind the clouds the sun still shining."

Another very important advance was the establishment of the "Germ Theory" which gave rise to bacteriology which has since revealed to the world the organisms which cause relapsing fever, leprosy, typhoid fever, pneumonia, glanders, tuberculosis, cholera, diphtheria, tetanus, bubonic plague, malarial fever, other infectious and suppurative processes, and some skin diseases. The specific causes of these diseases almost inevitably suggests an antidote, and antidotes have been discovered for some of these afflictions. Artificial immunity is thus being established.

Another recent method of medication

is the introduction into the system of certain animal juices and extracts of various organs to supply the need of similar substances, the natural manufacture of which is suppressed or diminished by disease. Pharmacology is now a science, and is able to place in the hands of the physician the active principle of drugs which are much more convenient to administer, and certainly very much more effective.

Advancement has been made in the mode of administering remedies, as by injection under the skin, directly into the blood etc.

But the brightest star in the constellation of medicine is yet to be mentioned. The extent of its riches and the importance of its truths are almost beyond conception. The greatest triumphs in the realm of medicine have been brought about by what may be called "Preventive Medicine." Its chief attainment is the maintenance of a high standard of public health. It is certain that "medicine after

having wandered for so many centuries  
thru quagmires of speculation and superstition  
is, at last, on the right path which  
leads thru the discovery of the cause to its  
removal or to the warding off of the effect.  
To this end, mechanical and chemical  
invention and discovery must go hand  
in hand with an increase in biological  
and medical knowledge. Neither can  
afford to neglect or despise the other, for  
both are working toward a common goal,  
the common good.

The conception that afflictions can be  
prevented is of modern times, and indeed,  
we may say, with no hesitation, practically  
of the present century or even of the latter  
two-thirds of the present century. "The idea  
which came down almost to us who now  
live was that diseases of every kind were  
a portion of the necessary sufferings of  
human existence, sufferings which  
might by some art or conjuration or divination,  
be removed, but which could not be avoid-  
ed or prevented." For this reason, the  
so-called curative art, the art of relieving  
or removing diseases, took, naturally, first

place in the natural trend of human progress. "This curative art, brilliant in many of its discoveries, useful in many of its applications, and beneficial alike in discovery and application, could not, however, be expected to remain the 'be-all and end-all' of human effort against disease." It was wonderful while it combated the unknown and invisible. But in the course of the natural development of knowledge, these passed away, in as far as belief in them was concerned, and there was left the fact that not one of the diseases that to be supernatural and out of the range of inquiry as to the first causes was supernatural at all. Most diseases were traceable by the acquirement of correct and accurate knowledge, and, when traceable, were largely and effectively preventible by further extension of this same acquirement. And so with the march of progress onward, "the mystic lore of ages, and the accumulated experience of the past centuries, as well as the rich experience of our forefathers & the earlier portions of the present



century, are appropriated and made tributary to the welfare of humanity." In this manner, has risen the science <sup>and art</sup> of preventive medicine. It is not a science, it is not an art separated necessarily from the so-called curative medicine. On the contrary the study of the two proceed well together, and he is the most perfect sanitarian, and the most accomplished and useful physician, who knows most both of the prevention of disease and of the nature and treatment of it. Great losses of time and considerable injury to advancement have been made because of lack of unity between these two systems of work. Of course, this has as a natural consequence led to enthusiastic and extravagant warfare. However, it must now be frankly admitted that the system of relieving mankind of its misery and load of disease can no longer rest alone on the "curative art." The sun is now rising upon an era in which the steady effort must be not only to cure disease, but to cure cure. One of the great ends of this era, then, will be to bring into entire harmony the two systems, "to bring the

prevention part into entire accord with  
 the remedial, to let the world at large understand  
 the interrelationships which exist between  
 them, and, by sympathy and brotherly  
 cooperation of action based on intelligent  
 reasoning enable every man and woman  
 to assist in that part which tends toward  
 prevention. To this end a more thro  
 and extensive <sup>study of hygiene</sup> necessarily becomes an  
 essential part of every person's education.  
 A cruel and false modesty has been and  
 still is, responsible in a large measure  
 for the extreme ignorance and, of course,  
 as a natural consequence, the inevitable  
 violation of the laws and requirements  
 which nature has enacted in order that  
 so delicately and carefully constructed an  
 organism as the human body may more  
 fully realize and accomplish the mission  
 which the Almighty, in whose image  
 it was first created, has set for it. When  
 every home becomes the sacred abode of the  
 divine consummation of true love, when parents  
 have reached that stage of enlightenment,  
 intellectually and morally, where they may  
 become the medical advisors and counsellors

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of their children; - then indeed will the youth of our land become the sons and daughters of genius and moral purity.

One of the great factors in the progress of preventive medicine is the knowledge as to the relations between micro-organisms and certain diseases. As a direct result of this sanitation is becoming fashionable. Cleanliness is the watchword of the new movement. The profession is gradually instilling into the public mind more rational ideas about the treatment of disease, as dieting, nursing, care of sick room ect. Antiseptic conditions of food and clothing are coming to be that as important as the giving of drugs. It is being recognized that disease is only a modification of the normal processes of health, and that there is a natural tendency to recover. With the rising intelligence of the people in regard to the scientific selection and preparation of food, there will be a corresponding rise of the general standard of public health. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of the correct preparation of food

as a means of prevention. Today this work is a science, and as a science should command the respect and receive the deference paid to other sciences. The art of cookery is no longer that of a drudgery; and why should it not be, for the person who prepares food according to scientific principles, which process as a matter of fact is thoroughly practical, is just as much a student of science as the person who carries on investigations in botany or physics. Indeed, the proper selection and scientific preparation of food supplemented with intelligent eating would in time eradicate a long list of common complaints. As a nation is known by what it eats, so also should it be known by the method according to which it prepares its food. The scientific cook of the coming age will be a specialist along one of the most important lines of preventive medicine.

As the class of people who have wealth, leisure, and knowledge becomes greater, there comes an ever increasing demand, not only for the best medical skill,

for the best methods of avoiding disease, but also for exhaustive research in every direction which promises to furnish new means for the prevention or relief of suffering, and to ward off as long as possible the inevitable end.

But in spite of the progressive past and promising future of the science of medicine it ever has been and is still blessed with a curse known as "Sectarianism."

Sectarianism is a mark of ignorance, jealousy or depravity. It has marked all the past history of medicine and has been very prevalent in this country thru the greater part of this century. But its sun has already passed the zenith, and by the end of the next half-century, the profession will be ashamed of its sectarian history, and will know what the colleges do not now know, that the healing art should be trusted to those alone whom the Ruler of the universe has specially qualified; and if a majority

of these should prove to be of the gentler sex, which is not improbable, what man who honors his mother will have any objection?" This shame, which is the common shame of our selfish humanity in all pursuits — is an inheritance from the dark ages, embodied and castled in corporations and therefore very persistent."

Why is it that after the correct treatment of a disease has been discovered, it requires from twenty to one-hundred and fifty years to induce the profession generally to adopt it? It took about one hundred years for the rational <sup>and</sup> successful treatment of scurvy to be adopted in the British Navy, and during all those years of official stolidity, indifference, and red tape, which now seem criminal, scurvy was the terror of the ocean more deadly in its effect than a naval war. Shall a man suffering from the excruciating pain of urinary Calculus, or the exhaustion of Bright's disease; or a woman dying in the agonies of advanced cancer or consumption, be deprived of

any or all the means of relief, because the attending physician chances to be an Homoeopathist or an Allopathist? "If the finger of death is already pointing to the inevitable beyond, as if mocking the vaunted power of the medical profession, while the patient cries aloud for relief, shall the physician bend all his efforts to the relief of the sufferings, irrespective of creed, or shall he outrage humanity and prostitute the very essence of his calling if his particular remedies fail, which is not improbable, by allowing such suffering to go on unchecked until death closes the scene?" Is there any crime greater than that of the sentinels who sleep or loiter at their posts, and refuse to listen to the loudest warnings when the diseases against which they are supposed to guard are decimating society?

Another thing which adds to the shame of the profession is that, "altho the profession has gradually emancipated itself from the routine administration of nauseous mixtures, and are able to say without fear of dismissal, a little more exercise, a little less food,

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and a little less tobacco<sup>and</sup> alcohol, the people still wander off after all manner of idols, and delight more and more in patent medicines, and are more than ever at the hands of advertising quacks." But for a time it must be so. This is yet the childhood of the world, and a supine credulity is still one of the most charming characteristics of man."

The differences in the schools are insufficient grounds for the bitter contention that exists. All of them are fellow workers in the same grand field. Yet we must not deplore the fact that there are different schools of medicine, for the science has by no means reached perfection; and they tend to stimulate investigation.

Herbert Spencer says: "It is clear that dissent in education results in facilitating inquiry, by the division of labor. Were we in possession of the true method, divergence from it would of course, be prejudicial; but the true method having to be found, the efforts of numerous independent seekers carrying out their researches



in different directions, constitute a better agency for finding it than any that could be devised. Each of them struck by some new thought which probably contains more or less of basis in fact - each of them zealous on behalf of his plan, fertile in expedients to test its correctness, and untiring in its efforts to make known its success - each of them merciless in its criticism on the rest - there cannot fail by composition of forces, to be a gradual approximation of all toward the right course. Whatever portion of the normal method any of them has discovered, must, by constant exhibition of its results, force itself into adoption; whatever wrong practices he has joined with it must, by repeated experiment and failure, be exploded. And by this aggregation of truths and elimination of errors, there must eventually be developed a correct and complete body of doctrine. Of the three phases thru which human opinion passes - the unanimity of the ignorant, the disagreement of the inquiring, and

the unanimity of the wise - it is manifest that the second is the parent of the third."

If the medical profession would seek to cultivate the good which exists within its ranks, this expanding goodness, appreciating the fact that differences of opinion must always exist among the profession, would soon tolerate, and perhaps better understand, this seemingly inevitable diversity. Then sooner or later unity would tend to follow in due course. The ruling spirit should be "the actual love for humanity, for humanity's self, which bears and forbears, that look to the great end to be accomplished in the life work of a physician and finds for its motto: *In certis unitas, in dubis liberatus, in omnibus caritas.*" (In sure things unity, in doubtful things liberty, in all things charity).

And now perhaps a few words about the person, who in carrying out the principles of established medicine, has made the science what it is will not be entirely out of place.

First of all the physician must have, as a foundation a strong constitution and considerable intellectual ability. No other profession makes so many imperative requirements. It is possible to become a physician only by means of long, expensive and exacting courses of work, and by self-application that begins in youth and ends only in the infirmities of age. The professional career of a physician is a life of sacrifice of mental work, and of exposure among conditions more distasteful than are known to any other profession. The skill of the physician is called in in the beginning of life as well as in the end and whenever there neglect, accident, or wrongdoing of the affected person abnormal conditions arise.

Yet the education necessary in the science of medicine is practically despised by quite a large portion of the world at large. Tho' this sentiment may not always be distinctly avowed, it exists nevertheless, to a greater extent than is generally supposed. It shows itself in an indifference to the true evidences of a physician's qualifications.

and in a readiness to put the quack on a level with or even above the thoroly educated physician. The prevalence of this sentiment is not confined to the ignorant, but often appears among the well-informed and even the learned. We sometimes hear it boldly avowed in language like this; "I care little about the evidence of a physician having had an education. The fact that he is successful in treating disease is worth vastly more than a piece of parchment."

But the world is yet in its mental childhood, and those so inclined will continue to mislead the ignorant and credulous, "until all such deceptive lights shall fade away beneath the sun of scientific medicine," practiced, by those whom the Almighty has divinely ordained, among an enlightened, a sympathetic and tolerant people.

The relation which the physician holds to the community is a peculiar one. No other man has so free access to so many families, among all classes of society. He is admitted into the very bosom of the families who seek his

services, even of those that receive other visitors with a distant formality. So much is this the case, that most persons have the feeling that their physician is a sort of confidant, and on that ground they are willing that he should see and hear, in his daily intercourse with them, what would otherwise be improper without the confidence of intimate relationship. His ear is ever attentive to entreaty, and within his faithful breast are concealed the disclosures of the suffering. And when this confidence is abused, as it sometimes is by the tattling and unprincipled physician, how gross the abuse, and how keenly it is felt by those who have, as a matter of necessity, reposed the confidence!

The true physician is an experimental enquirer and a laborious student of modern progress in all lines, and this faithful study alone is enough to impair his vital energy, and take a few years from his life, even if kept out of the atmosphere of disease and night practice. But this last is too favorable an exception, for

he must ever be on duty. Never is the weather too cold or too hot for the physician to face the elements. His labors are constant, his toils unremitting, and his cares unceasing. If he is conscientious, there is no hour during which his burden can be laid aside, for there can be no such thing in any community as a state of public moral health. Success may elate him as conquest flushes the victor. "Honors are lavished upon the brave soldiers, who in the struggle with the foe, have covered themselves with glory, and returned victorious from the field of battle; but how much more brilliant is the achievement of those who overwhelm disease, that common enemy of mankind, whose victims are numbered by millions!" The physician is the defensive arm of society, he must expect suffering and a death too early, if he keeps in service, and in such a heroic life he should have higher motives than the soldier who simply fights for pay or for country.

His intelligence must be above that

carried out in the dogmatic practice of the professor of therapeutics of whose practice the following might be said: "Seven-eighths of his practice was accomplished with three remedies and calomel constituted the majority of his prescriptions in both number and quantity and yet he was an honest dogmatist." The physician whose practice is the crystallized knowledge of fifteen or twenty years ago is no more competent than a pilot who has not visited a harbor or river for the same length of time. His principles and interest must be beyond that of the gentlemen whose enthusiasm in pathology was so great that his keenest interest in a case only became awakened when the patient was dead. Physicians of this sort — peace to their ashes. However the expression of our friendship need not be wholly post-mortem.

We must know that certain diseases are incurable, and acknowledging that the highest aim of the physician is the care of the sick, avail himself of every known means that the science of this century

offers for this purpose, and use them, if in his judgement they are necessary for the welfare of his patient." He should be absolutely free to do that which he is bound by conscience to do, and to use that means for the relief of suffering <sup>&</sup> of disease, which knowledge and experience may teach him to ~~do~~ the best. The love of freedom should be the ruling passion whatever the system, for all have their merits and all have their faults.

But above all, the true physician is the man or woman who personifies the highest ideal of rational medicine, who holds the highest moral and spiritual standard (and the moral and spiritual responsibilities of a physician are tremendous), and who is competent to detect and understand disease. "The faculty for detecting and comprehending morbid conditions generally depends on a distinct innate faculty, as much as music or poetry; for human diseases are the most complex and indescribable of all things under the sun. Disease is to be sought and detected by a peculiar perception, which cannot be



explained or taught." The man or woman who has this faculty is the born physician, divinely commissioned to battle with disease because he or she understands it. Practical skill in the application of mental philosophy is one of the most valuable endowments of the medical art.

The glory of the profession "is the well-spring of tenderness in human hearts, which responds to human suffering, and the heroism that fights and dies in defense of society against pestilence, leading the best <sup>and</sup> bravest to early deaths and making the profession the most short-lived of all that assist society."

"I know of no title more honorable than that of physician, and no ministration more worthy a loving soul than that which is constantly performed in the chamber of sickness by those who practice the art of healing, and if we would be physicians indeed, practicing medicine according to the will of God, and knowing nature as the term implies, we must know the laws which his finger has inscribed for our

guidance." To those having the proper devotion <sup>and</sup> following this light, success, ultimately is secure.

Some of the brightest hopes of humanity are with the medical profession. Indeed we can almost say that to it and not to law or theology belong the promises. Medicine <sup>and</sup> Divinity should go hand in hand for the triumphs of the former are the triumphs of the latter. With the outlook in medicine it is not too much to expect that the physician of tomorrow by the advancement of bacteriology and allied sciences will eradicate the whole range of communicable diseases. However "disease will always be with us, but we may look forward confidently to the time when epidemics shall be no more, when typhoid shall be as rare as typhus, and tuberculosis as leprosy" Man naturally a transgressor daily both in ignorance and deliberately breaking the laws of health, will always need physicians. But this end will be reached only by degrees. What has been done is but an indication of what will be done.

Amid many disappointments, and

Tho "we may hear the deep but distant murmur of the immortal sea as it beats against the shores of time ready to bear upon its mighty bosom the children of men from life to life", we must not be impatient, as "science moves but slowly, slowly creeping from point to point."