

AN
INAUGURAL ADDRESS
TO THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS
OF THE
CITY OF LEXINGTON AND THE COUNTY OF FAYETTE.

BY CHARLES CALDWELL, M. D.
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE.

DELIVERED BY APPOINTMENT, FEBRUARY 2d, 1836.

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An Inaugural Address to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the City of Lexington and the County of Fayette.
By CHARLES CALDWELL, M. D., President of the College.
Delivered by appointment, February 2nd, 1836.

GENTLEMEN,—Man is constitutionally a being of society. One of the master faculties of his nature is a feeling that binds him to the companionship of his race. Nor, except under the exercise and gratification of that feeling, is it possible for him to be either happy in himself or useful to others, commanding in power or distinguished in action. In plainer terms; in an isolated condition, he would be feeble, inefficient and groveling, gloomy and wretched. Every approach that has been made by him towards a solitary state is in proof of this.

In accordance with this view of the subject, all the products of human enterprise and industry that have improved and decorated the earth, and contributed to the comfort and refinement, the dignity, grandeur and felicity of our race, have been the offspring, in some way, of the social compact. From the labours of solitary man they could never have resulted.

Even among the inferior animals, it is those alone that are *social*—that hold constant communion with each other, and labour in concert, that produce great effects, make other portions of nature bow to their influence, and become in some measure the masters of their own destiny. And united labours, where masses combine, rarely fail to eventuate in this. When large numbers even of the humblest and feeblest of beings labour long and uninterruptedly at the same work, they often render its magnitude stupendous, and its strength and perfection a theme of wonder. The pyramids, those miracles of human toil and power, are mole-hills and structures of a day, compared to the coral islands, destined no doubt to become the basis of future continents, erected in the Pacific and Southern oceans, by societies of polypi.

It is also numbers associated, and acting in union, that renders animals, individually weak and insignificant, powerful for evil as well as for good. On this ground the bee and the silk-worm furnish us with choice and valuable articles for use and ornament: an army of termites is a formidable enemy, and the locust and the palmer-worm lay countries desolate. Even in the vegetable kingdom confederated multitudes give efficacy and strength.

As relates to mankind, I say the same is true. Whatever may be the enterprise they meditate, or the end at which they aim, union is their strength, their buckler, and their sword. One of the reasons, and not an unsubstantial one, why tribes of savages, and hordes of barbarians are less efficient than civilized communities, is their want of well concerted social institutions. From the same cause, the ancients were, in many respects, much less powerful and operative, than, from their numbers, intelligence, and enterprise, they might have been. Whatever were the wisdom and excellence of some of their general social compacts, we have no ground to believe, that their more circumscribed societies were either numerous or judiciously instituted and conducted.

It is in modern times, and among the most enlightened nations, that the great maxim, "UNION IS STRENGTH," is fully understood, and extensively employed, as a rule of action. And it is no less applicable to matters of mind, than to matters of body—no less so to confederacies for the advancement of knowledge, and to political combinations for the furtherance of party purposes, than to armies for the defence and the conquest of nations. Never perhaps in any other country, or at any other time, has the power of individuals confederated, active and resolute, been so forcibly and formidably manifested, as in France, during her revolutionary convulsions. Elsewhere, however, such power has been much more beneficently and laudably displayed.

Soon after the period of the Revival of Letters, societies for the advancement of useful knowledge began to be established in many parts of Europe. And, continuing down to

the present time, they have served as so many fixed centre-lights, to dispel the mists of ignorance and superstition, eradicate prejudices, and thus to illuminate the world and amend its condition. Shedding their still increasing radiance on each other, and on all intermediate and surrounding places, they have rendered, intellectually and morally, the same services, that the heavenly bodies do, in their physical capacity. They have sent forth brightness and improvement, where, without them, comparative darkness and barbarism would have brooded. On the well known principle expressed in the apothegm, "*e collisione scintilla,*" their very controversies and contentions have been fruitful in science. The amount of knowledge that has been thus elicited, beyond what would have been developed in any other way, is altogether incalculable. In verification of this, we need only look into the transactions of the Royal Society of London, of the Royal Academy and the National Institute of France, of the literary and philosophical societies of Dublin, Edinburgh, Vienna, Berlin, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, and of the other great capitals of Europe, and into those of the American Philosophical Society, and of sundry other like institutions in the United States—we have but to look into these results of human associations, and our proofs will be ample. In those productions and their radiant sources, we shall recognise so many intellectual stars of the first magnitude, with innumerable minor ones glittering around them, the whole interchanging their lights with each other, and pouring through all cultivated nations their united effulgence.

Nor, in kindling up this illumination so mighty and glorious, has the profession of Medicine been wanting in its contributions. Far from it. Many of the most illustrious members of the foremost societies in science and letters that the world has produced, have belonged to Medicine. In truth, physicians have done much more, in the development of the science of nature, than all other characters united. By the very name he bears, nature is designated as the physician's domain. Nor is this the only meed of commendation the profession de-

serves. It has not merely co-operated with other enlightened bodies in the promotion of knowledge. The numerous societies, purely medical, that have been erected in Christendom, have conferred on man incalculable benefits, by their improvements in science, and its judicious employment in the prevention and mitigation of sickness and suffering, and the preservation of life.

This representation, did any one question it, might be abundantly sustained, by a reference to what has been done by the different Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and by Medical Societies under other denominations, that have been established so numerous in every country where science is cultivated. And, in proportion to the multiplication of such institutions, and the extent of country over which they have been planted, is the amount of the light they have shed around them, and the good they have effected. Wherever they have appeared under sound organization, and been judiciously conducted, professional enterprise, science, and beneficence have accompanied or followed them.

Under this bright and flattering view of the subject, I cannot but hail, as an event of fair and auspicious promise, the erection of the College, I have the honor to address. Not only is that event conclusive of the westerly progress of medical science, and its collateral branches; it further shows that the profession has attained already, in this highly favoured and fast-brightening region, an early maturity and a dignified standing. Nor, provided the institution be administered with wisdom and energy, can it fail to contribute, in an eminent degree, to the furtherance and confirmation of the rank, which western medicine has already acquired. It will aid in facilitating and hastening, by the strength of combined numbers, what would advance but slowly and with difficulty, and perhaps ultimately fail, under the languor and insufficiency of individual enterprise.

But no lasting improvement in human affairs can be the fruit of accident alone, momentary impulse, hasty conceptions, or immature counsels. It must be the product of time and re-

flexion, judicious arrangement, and persevering labour. This is true of the issue of all enterprises, whether they be projected by individuals or associations. They must originate in ripe deliberations and forecast, and be conducted by system, else they will certainly fail, and be productive perhaps of evil, rather than good. Nor can our College exhibit an exception to the general rule. To labour successfully and do the good it meditates, it must have in view well selected, definite, and substantial objects, and must adopt a suitable scheme of action for their accomplishment. And, fortunately for its prospects, such are the auspices, under which it is founded. The general results at which it aims, and an outline of its intended modes of attaining them, are briefly sketched in the preamble to its Constitution. The remainder of the present discourse, therefore, shall consist chiefly of thoughts and suggestions, respecting the procedure by which that outline may be best filled up, and the picture finished.

When contemplated in its entire character, Medicine presents itself under a two-fold aspect; that of a *physical science*; and of a *practical profession*. And the object of our College is its improvement in both. Nor must the *moral* of the profession, which is its highest attribute, be neglected or forgotten. Means for its improvement as a science must be derived from two sources; the study by observation of the structure and functions of the human body, as well in a healthy, as in a diseased condition, together with the causes, progress, seats and characters of disease, and of the means by which disordered action may be changed and rectified; and the study of books. And, to the formation of an enlightened and educated physician, the pursuit of each course is alike indispensable.

As a profession, apart from its literary and scientific character, Medicine, besides judgment and skill, comprises two leading elements, *manners and morals*; and its cultivation in both is essential to the standing it ought to possess; and to which its votaries should be ambitious to raise it. The manners of a physician have also a two-fold bearing; towards his brethren of the profession, and toward the sick. In the former

of these relations, they constitute a portion of medical etiquette, and have no small influence on professional order, decorum and harmony. They fall properly, therefore, under the cognisance of the profession. But over his mere manners in the sick-room, although important to his patients, as well as to himself, and over his manners as a man, the profession has no right of control. There are peculiar reasons, however, why the manners of a physician should be mild and affable, polished, courteous, and dignified, even beyond those of other cultivated men. A departure by him from this style of deportment does mischief, and is unbecoming and often offensive. It approximates, therefore, very closely to a departure from rectitude. It is in medicine, more especially than in any other vocation, that manners amount to *minor morals*. An accomplished physician, therefore, is an *accomplished gentleman*. So far as he is defective in the latter respect, he falls below the standard of his profession. But I must dwell on this no longer. In offering to your consideration a few remarks on the other topics referred to, I shall speak of them in the order in which they have been mentioned. And first:

Of the study of diseases, their causes, characters, and treatment, as they present themselves to our observation in the persons of the sick.

So extensive and diversified is the field of inquiry, which this subject covers, that it will be impossible for me even to specify, much less discuss, all the numerous points it embraces. The *causes* of disease alone, with their modifications and combinations, would, if considered in detail, furnish matter for a greater number of volumes, than I can devote to them even of pages. And, in this vast western region, so widely different from the regions of the east, *they* form a study peculiarly important. Essential as a knowledge of the causes producing our diseases is to the institution of a successful plan of treating them, it is still more essential on the score of their prevention.

Difficult as the study of medical etiology is in itself, its difficulty is greatly increased, in this section of the United States,

by the rapidly changing condition of the country. The great Valley we inhabit is in a transition state. Such is the progress of cultivation and improvement it is, that what existed and exerted an influence on the complaints of the last year, is materially altered during the present, and will sustain further alterations in the year that is to follow. Corresponding, therefore, to this unsettled state of things must be the changes in our diseases. Difficult, however, as is the task of investigating thoroughly, and correctly portraying western maladies, and of making known the true mode of treating them, it must be encountered and accomplished by the physicians of the West, else it will not be accomplished at all. Eastern physicians, whatever may be their pretensions and protestations on the subject; are totally incompetent to it. Of the real character and mode of curing the complaints of this Valley, so different in all things from the valley of the Atlantic, they are strikingly ignorant. And they too often betray their ignorance, by their inconsiderate efforts to appear informed. Nor can those young men, who, deluded by deceptive promises, cross the mountains to eastern schools of medicine, receive from lectures there, on the treatment of the diseases with which they are preparing to contend, a single original idea that is worthy of their attention at the time, or of their remembrance afterwards. All they can be amused with respecting it by Atlantic teaching is mere *hearsay* or *conjecture*, on the part of the teachers, and not the result of either observation or study. How can the case be otherwise? Not an eastern professor has ever devoted an hour to the rational and practical investigation of the character and treatment of western maladies! The reason is plain. He has never had an opportunity of thus investigating them, because he has never seen them. Under such circumstances, the pretence of enlightening young men on the subject, deserves a name, which a sentiment of delicacy toward our profession, and a feeling of respect for the audience I am addressing, withhold me from bestowing on it. Were I to pronounce it, however

unwarrantable assumption, it would be difficult to prove the imputation unmerited.

In proof of the statement just submitted to you, I appeal to physicians who, having been educated in the East, have pursued their profession in the Western states, whether they have not been obliged to adopt a practice materially different from that inculcated in the Eastern schools? Nor have I the slightest doubt of their reply being *affirmative*. On the contrary, *I know it will*. Forgetting the precepts on practice received by them in the east, those physicians have been compelled to become their own *practical teachers*, taking observation and experience for their guide. In further proof of the same sentiment, let the learned professors of the eastern schools be themselves translated across the mountains, and planted as practitioners in the Mississippi Valley—and mark the issue. And it will be humiliating to them. To become competent to the treatment of the complaints to be encountered by them, they will be compelled to reject many of the notions they had *previously thought*, and learn new and more correct ones, from observation and experience, and from the practice and instruction of the physicians around them—from the instruction of the same practitioners, *as men*, whom they had themselves pretended to instruct, *as pupils and boys!* On the truth of this, I peril my reputation.

The experiment would teach our eastern brethren two useful lessons; to prefer observation and experience, as sources of medical knowledge, to mere reading and theorizing; and to abstain from indelicate and unfounded censures of western practice in western complaints.

Yet, do those gentleman openly and unblushingly persist in pretending to instruct others, on points respecting which they are uninstructed themselves! And, what is still more to be lamented, their pretence is received, by admiring listeners, for wisdom and learning! It is time that this scheme of "*second-hand*" teaching was brought to a close; and that it was succeeded by one of substantial usefulness! It will be understood that my reference is, not to the teaching of medical *principles*,

but medical *practice* in diseases to which the teachers are *entire strangers*. And if I speak with *severity*, my words are directed against the *pretension*; not against *those who are wantonly concerned in it*. Teachers who thus expose themselves, are to be regarded "more in *pity* than in anger."

Suppose western professors, who had never been east of the mountains, were to attempt, in their lectures, to teach the nature and treatment of the complaints of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York, and to censure the practice of the physicians of those cities—with what feelings, and in what tone would their eastern brethren reply to them? The answer is plain. They would either maintain a *contemptuous silence*; or their reply would be in the language of derision and rebuke. "Confine yourselves, gentlemen, to your own side of the mountains; and treat in your lectures of things you understand; we can take care of ourselves and our patients, without your instruction!" Such would be the tone and spirit of their answer. Nor would the sneer be undeserved. And such is the answer to them, which, at the present period, *our self-respect*, concurring with truth and reason, instinctively dictates. Let us listen to the admonition then, and yield it obedience. But to return and more directly pursue my subject.

To the physicians of the West, I say, it belongs, no less on the score of personal and sectional pride, than on that of public duty, to vindicate their own characters, as men of observation and industry, as well as of ability and standing in their profession, by giving correct accounts, descriptive, philosophical, and therapeutical, of western complaints. And on you, as a portion of the physicians referred to, it is incumbent to set an example of knowledge, enterprise, and labour, in this important undertaking. Having deliberately pledged yourselves to that effect, in the adoption of the Constitution of the College, your course in relation to it is no longer optional. You must faithfully acquit yourselves of the special obligation thus contracted, or submit to the discreditable charge of indolence,

incompetence, or delinquency—or of the three united. Nor will the charge be disreputable only. It will be also injurious; because it will deprive you, not unjustly, of some amount of public confidence. He that is notoriously faithless in one thing, has a stain on his character, and is sure to be suspected of faithlessness in others. In your engagements, then, as members of the College, as in all other engagements, truth, punctuality, and a fulfilment of the trust reposed in you, are the only means, by which you can usefully serve the institution and the community, and secure yourselves from imputations that must injure you. I have borne on this point the more earnestly, because it is that, in relation to which members of literary and scientific societies are most frequently wanting in duty.

The prevailing diseases of this Valley, like those of other places, arise and receive their characters and modifications chiefly from two sources; the influences of the atmosphere; and the modes of life of the inhabitants; the latter including diet and drink, clothing, exercise, amusements, and habitual pursuits. And I need hardly add, that, in these respects, the people of the Mississippi Valley differ materially from those of all other sections of the United States.

In the production of disease, the atmosphere acts through a two-fold channel; its *sensible*, and its *insensible* qualities. The former of these are heat, cold, moisture, dryness, weight, and the transitions from one condition to another. As participating extensively in the causation of disease, the influence of such conditions and changes must be attentively studied, by those who would attain to a knowledge of the subject. These agents again are subject to modifications from other causes. Prevailing winds affect materially the condition of the atmosphere, as respects its humidity, as well as its temperature, and its vicissitudes from one degree of temperature and humidity to another. So do the clearing and cultivation of a country. By the latter causes, the climates of the older States of the Union have been strikingly changed; and so have

the characters of their prevailing complaints. And even in the Western States, young as they are, the effects of the same causes are already perceptible. Neither the climate nor the diseases of certain portions of this great Valley are the same now that they were forty years ago. The felling of our forests, and the advancement of agriculture act on a two-fold principle in changing our atmosphere, and the characters of our diseases. They give a freer passage to winds, whether hot or cold, moist or dry, and, by admitting the sunbeams to a less obstructed action on the surface of the earth, are instrumental in augmenting the amount of evaporation. In consequence of this augmented ascent of moisture from the ground, the whole of which does not appear to descend again in dew or rain on the same spots, many superficial springs, which once contributed to water the country, have been supposed to have disappeared. An opinion, however, seems to be gaining ground, that they are not dried up, but have only changed their places of eruption from the surface. Hence, many of those natural fountains exist now, in places where they are believed not to have existed at the time of the first settlement of the country. There is no danger, therefore, of Kentucky being about to be drained of her waters, and reduced to a desert, according to the ominous prediction of the Abbe Correa, whose stock of language was far more abundant than his stock of science.

An interesting question here presents itself. What, in their form, violence, and mortality, were the complaints of the early settlers of the West, compared to those which we now experience? Unless the subject be soon investigated, a satisfactory answer to this question can never be rendered; because the materials to frame it will be lost. The question might be proposed in a more general shape. What changes are produced in prevailing diseases, by the progress of agriculture, arts, and manufactures, united to an increase of luxury and refinement, indolence and ease? Nor does any other region afford such facilities for examining and solving this prob-

lem, as the Mississippi Valley. The question, therefore, ought not to be neglected. These several matters offer to the College so many topics of useful inquiry.

Among the sensible qualities of the atmosphere may be further included the influence of electricity and light. And there is good reason to believe, that, in the production and modification of disease, those agents are far from being neutral. As relates to light, its influence on the action of organized beings, both animal and vegetable, is matter of certainty. And electricity is far too powerful and active to be accounted neutral. There is ground of probability, that the pitting of small-pox is owing in some degree to the influence of light. Dr. Luzenburg, of New Orleans, assures us, that, when he keeps his patient in darkness, curing the eruptive fever and the filling of the pock, the face is never disfigured by the complaint. The subject is eminently worthy of further investigation. I have seen a few of Dr. Luzenburg's patients, from whose faces the light had been carefully excluded; and it was evident that the pitting, if any, would be exceedingly slight.

By inquirers into the causes of health and sickness, therefore, the action of those elements should be strictly investigated. In a word; that it may be able to form a proper estimate of the influences of the sensible qualities of the atmosphere, in producing disease, and controlling its character, the College should keep a complete register of the weather, with a corresponding register of prevailing complaints. In doing this it must employ the necessary instruments, especially the thermometer, barometer, pluviometer, hygrometer, and electrometer. It must also register the courses and characters of winds, and the number of cloudy and sunshiny days, for the determination of the quantity of light enjoyed, independently of the amount of rain. Nor should the influence of moon-light nights be unexamined. There is some reason to believe that lunar light is not altogether inefficient in its bearing on health. Though the eudiometer does not test the sensible qualities of the atmosphere, it may be associated with the instruments

already enumerated. It should make a part of the apparatus of every scientific body.

In the production and modification of disease, the *insensible* qualities of the atmosphere are more powerful and deleterious than the sensible. Unfortunately, however, our acquaintance with them is exceedingly limited. We have no test by which to determine their nature or character. Their very existence is revealed to us only by the complaints they produce. For want of better and more definite names, we call them *constitutions of the atmosphere*—meaning by the phrase some secret atmospherical distemperature. They are no doubt formed by an impregnation of the atmosphere with different kinds of deleterious gases, which may all be indicated by the term *malaria*; but from what particular sources those gases arise, we do not in all cases know. That some of them result from the dissolution of animal and vegetable substances, is not questionable. And that the others emanate from the earth, as the result of some agency not known to us, seems most probable.

To those morbid conditions of the atmosphere called constitutions, are referable all our endemic and epidemic diseases. These, as you know, consist of bilious fever in the numerous and diversified shapes it puts on, cholera, influenza, scarlatina, hooping-cough, measles, and a few others. And you further know, that such complaints are not always uniform in their appearance. They are in no small degree, modified in their symptoms, as well as in their general type, obstinacy, violence, and dangerous tendency, by seasons of the year, states of the weather, topographical influences, and the pursuits and modes of living of those whom they attack. Since the days of Hippocrates, and no doubt at a much earlier period, the study of endemics and epidemics, both scientifically and practically; with a reference to these influences, has been a favorite pursuit with some of the brightest ornaments of the medical profession, and the most distinguished benefactors of our race. Nor would I feel myself justified in declining to recommend it to the special attention of the members of the

College. A subject more interesting, or of higher importance can hardly be presented to them. Add to the influences on endemics and epidemics just alluded to, those of the progress of cultivation, wealth, refinement, and luxury, including in the account the corresponding differences requisite in the treatment of them, and our acquaintance with them will be ample. Subjoin a correct view of the differences between the same epidemics in the Mississippi Valley and in the Atlantic States and elsewhere, and our knowledge of them will be sufficiently complete for all the purposes of theory and practice.

Such are the imperfect suggestions, which the short time I have had to prepare myself on the subject, in the midst of many engrossing engagements, has enabled me to make, respecting our inquiries into the causes, varieties, and appropriate treatment of our prevailing complaints. Nor is the best mode of guarding against attacks of them, when they do prevail, a less important theme of research. But on that topic a want of time forbids me to dilate.

The study of the actual seats of disease, and of the condition of the organ or organs in which they are located, is another subject of vital interest in the science of Medicine. Without a knowledge of these points, diseases are not understood, and cannot therefore be either correctly described, or rationally and successfully treated. This inquiry involves the study of morbid anatomy, and that imposes the necessity of *post-mortem* examinations. In cases where any doubt exists as to the locality, nature, and character of a malady, this form of research should never be neglected. Physically speaking, it is the only way to profit by mortality, and to derive from the dead a remedy for the living. By no other process can the secret workings of a disease be revealed. Be it then a constant and favourite object of the College, to make and encourage *post-mortem* inspections, on all suitable occasions, and to remove, as far as possible, the prejudice and opposition, that have hitherto existed toward a practice, so wise, humane, beneficent and useful. The benefit that must result from this

course, if skilfully pursued, and steadily persevered in, is beyond computation.

To profit to the full extent, by these forms of research, each individual should keep a record of his observations. This practice will be beneficial in sundry points of view. Facts will be examined more carefully, ascertained more accurately, and collected more abundantly; and, when collected, they will never be forgotten; or if they should be, the remembrance of them can be easily revived. One of the most instructive volumes a physician can peruse, is *his own common place-book*, of a few years standing—provided it has been industriously and skilfully kept. Nor should he rest content with merely collecting matter, and putting it rudely on record. Still further benefit will result from his writing portions of it carefully out, and preparing them for the press. Nor will the public alone be the gainers by this. In point of mental improvement, the writer himself will profit much more than any of his readers. “*Qui docet discit*”—*he who teaches, learns*—is a maxim as important as it is true, and should never be forgotten, by those who are ambitious of science and letters. I do not say that no physician ever understands a subject well, until he has written on it, or prepared himself to write. But I do say, that, provided he writes carefully and accurately, he understands it much better afterwards, than he did before. His individual ideas respecting it, if not more numerous, are clearer and better defined; he knows much better which of them are strictly appropriate to it and which not, and his entire view of it is broader, fuller, and more mature. His knowledge of it is purified, select and embodied, and possesses shape, solidity and value. Hence the soundness of the remark, that, “while reading makes a man *learned*, and conversation *fluent and ready*, writing makes him *accurate and definite*” in the communication of his thoughts. That the College may fully attain, therefore, the objects it contemplates, it will be indispensable that its members accustom themselves to composition, and commit their productions to the press, in the form

of Transactions, or in some of the Medical Journals of the country. In no other way can it rise to the summit either of reputation or usefulness, at which it should aim.

To accomplish its entire destiny, the institution must go still farther. Its attention must not be confined exclusively to the *diseases* of our country. It will be necessary for it to embrace in its researches a field both wider, fuller, and of greater variety. The antiquities of the West, those mouldering relics of an extinguished race, have a claim on its regard. So have our minerals, plants, and animals, as belonging to sciences collateral to medicine. The formation of cabinets of these productions would contribute to the gratification of enlightened curiosity, as well as to the advancement of useful knowledge. Added to the rational pleasure accompanying them, such pursuits would enrich and liberalize the minds of the inquirers, and aid in developing the resources of the West.

Nor is this all. The development of our medical statistics might occupy advantageously a portion of the time of the members of the College. How do the healthfulness and longevity of the West and South compare with those of the East and North? What is the comparative proportions of births to deaths, in these two sections of the Union? And what the comparative numbers of octogenarians, nonagenarians, and centenarians in a given amount of population? What is the comparative health of infants and children, in the North and in the South, and what the comparative facility of rearing them? As closely connected with this inquiry, what is the relative size of *native* families in the two regions? Finally, is it true, that, under suitable circumspection and care, and including the entire compass of the year, health in general is more secure in the Eastern and Northern, than in the Western and Southern States? However incredulous our transmontane fellow-citizens may be on the subject, I have long been persuaded, that this latter question must be answered in the negative.—The most effectual means of protecting the health of emigrants from one section of the United States to another,

and of securing to them a *seasoning* free from danger, is a topic that has never received the attention it deserves. As a matter of science, no less than of philanthropy, it should be no longer neglected. And whether the migration be from east and north to south and west, or in the opposite direction, a *seasoning* sickness is equally to be looked for, and guarded against. The subject is, therefore, a comprehensive one.

Thus far I have confined my remarks to what may be termed the study of the BOOK OF NATURE—a volume, which, when correctly interpreted, never misleads. With this alone, however, physicians must not remain content. They must study also *books from the press*, especially recent productions of merit, and the works of the modern Fathers of Medicine. They will thus improve, at the same time, in medical literature, and medical science. There is a fact suggested to me by these remarks, to which I refer with no little reluctance; but, being a fact, I feel it my duty to refer to it. The physicians of the West read less than they ought to do, and much less than they might do. There is no physician, whatever may be the extent of his practice, who may not redeem a portion of time for the perusal of books pertaining to his profession. In half the number of hours, that most physicians spend in idleness and unimproving conversation, they might accumulate, by reading, a large and valuable amount of medical knowledge.

The burdensome expense of a library is rendered, by many practitioners, as a reason why they are destitute of one, and therefore do not read. Under this disadvantage the members of our College do not labour. The library of the Medical Department of Transylvania is accessible to them; and it is one of the choicest and best in the United States. There is also a substitute for a library, to which every physician in the West may resort. I allude to Medical Journals, Reviews, and other Periodicals. By reading regularly one or two of these publications, the practitioner may do much toward keeping pace with the progress of his profession. And the neglect of physicians on this point is a matter of equal sur-

prise and regret. No practitioner, who values as he ought to do his professional standing, should fail to avail himself of these abundant sources of knowledge. Being repositories of the most important discoveries and improvements in the profession, they should be resorted to, as the best substitutes for a library. Permit me to mention in this place, in terms which it amply deserves, a work of peculiar ability and merit, the circulation of which among the physicians of the West would be a subject of rejoicing to me. I allude to the "AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY," NOW ISSUING PERIODICALLY FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS.

The true art of deriving knowledge from books is too seldom practised by readers, and is not perhaps very generally understood. To *read* and to *learn* are far from being necessarily synonymous terms. That a book may prove a source of learning and knowledge, it must be *studied*. And to study is the same as to analyze, examine and compare with nature. The physician who does not read in this manner, may almost as well not read at all. "*Studium sine calamo, somnium est,*" said one of the most industrious and sagacious of inquirers. *To study without a pen in your hand, is but to dream.* And there is much truth in the assertion.

Why a pen in hand? The answer is easy. To note such thoughts and passages, and to make such extracts, as may be most worthy of remembrance, and best suited to the attainment of any object, the reader may have in view, or to the illustration of any topic he may be engaged in investigating. In doing this, the attention is at once excited and fixed. The matter is therefore more fully comprehended, better selected and assorted, and much longer retained. Nor is this all. Such a digest or analysis is easily prepared, as may be fit for the pages of some Periodical. In this way the judicious and industrious reader may instruct the public as well as himself. A procedure of the kind, by the members of the College, may be rendered exceedingly useful to the other physicians of the West and South, who find it impracticable to procure libraries.

And the Transylvania Journal of Medicine may serve as the medium of their communication with their brethren. By pursuing a course of this sort, and publishing occasionally what they collect by observation and experience, as well as by reading, they may render themselves, as other like institutions have done, a radiating centre of useful knowledge, for the instruction of the less favoured portion of the profession.

I should hold myself guilty of a neglect of duty, if I were not to refer to another source of knowledge, which I deem of surpassing interest and importance. And whatever emotions, the announcement may awaken in the minds of some of my audience, whether of surprise, disapprobation, disrespect, or merriment, be it understood that I allude to the study of Phrenology. I say "study," serious study; not mere play, fire-side prattle, or superficial reading about it, embracing a few ill-defined thoughts to-day, to be misapplied or forgotten to-morrow. I mean sober and persevering investigation, until the science is mastered.

Phrenology is a legitimate branch of Medicine, and belongs therefore especially to the province of the physician. Nor do I hesitate to add, that it is so essential a branch, that, at the present day, and in the existing condition of physiological science, no physician is thoroughly educated without a knowledge of it. The truth of this appears sufficiently from the definition of the term, which means *an account of the structure and functions of the brain*. And if a physician is justly deemed defective in his education, from his want of an acquaintance with the anatomy and physiology of the stomach or lungs, he is still more so from an ignorance of those of the brain, the latter being the master viscus of the system. To understand the pathology of mental derangement, without a previous knowledge of Phrenology, is impossible. The reason is plain. Pathology is nothing but diseased physiology. Phrenology, as already stated, includes, as one of its elements, the healthy physiology of the brain, and can alone lead to an acquaintance with the entire pathology of that viscus. And

mental derangement is nothing but the product of a pathological condition of the brain. As easily, therefore, can the diseased functions of the lungs be understood, without a knowledge of their healthy functions, as the diseased functions of the brain, without a knowledge of its functions in health.

But there exist other reasons, not to be disregarded, why physicians should study Phrenology. The science is spreading rapidly, both in Europe and the United States, and becoming *fashionable* and popular. For physicians to be strangers to it, therefore, will degrade and injure them. It will convict them of ignorance in a branch of their profession, which men of other vocations understand. "Men," did I say? aye, and women too; for, in some places, women are taking a lead in Phrenology, and publishing valuable and interesting works on it. And it becomes physicians to be extremely careful, not to forfeit, on either intellectual or moral ground, the esteem of females. A forfeiture of the kind can never fail to injure them seriously in their professional prospects.

In a word; the time is not far distant, when it will be as disgraceful and prejudicial to physicians, to be ignorant of Phrenology, as of any other branch of physiology or anatomy. Let me earnestly and gravely, then, recommend the study of it to every votary of medicine, who values his standing in science, and is ambitious to keep pace with the march of his profession.

Another branch of knowledge of great importance, yet much neglected, is Medical Jurisprudence. I need not say, that, on a competent acquaintance with it, and its judicious application, depend in many cases, life, liberty, property, reputation, civil and political rights and immunities, the peace and happiness of families, and all else that renders human existence desirable. This truth is too certain already to require confirmation. It is submitted to the members of the College therefore, whether it is not incumbent on them to study it themselves, and encourage, as far as practicable, the study of it by others. Like Phrenology, it is becoming a subject of much more attention, than it was even a few years ago.

Comparative anatomy and physiology make another subject of curious and interesting research, as well as a source of useful knowledge. They throw on human anatomy and physiology, especially on the latter, light which cannot be derived from any other quarter. The study and promotion of this branch of knowledge, therefore, constitute an object highly worthy of the attention of our institution.

But the entire duty of the College is not yet delineated. To improve the *social* condition of Medicine including its courtesies, no less than the *intellectual*, falls within our province. This too is a matter of interest and importance, as well to the public, as to the Profession itself. As heretofore stated, the strength and influence of men, whether in classes, or as a common body, depend on their union and harmony with each other. This is as true of physicians as of the rest of mankind. And they are certainly, *as physicians*, more isolated and *anti-social*, than any other class of cultivated men. Assuredly they are much more so, than either lawyers or the clergy. And hence, as a class, they have much less influence.

Without pretending to compute the proportional difference in numbers with any degree of exactness, I presume the United States contain five physicians for every lawyer, and ten at least for every clergyman. The physicians moreover, are as well gifted by nature, and as fully educated, as the members of the other two professions. Yet the lawyers and clergy govern the country. *As a class*, physicians have neither standing nor weight. *As such*, they are scarcely even spoken of or known. They are recognised only in their individual capacity, and possess alone individual influence. The words *Bar* and *Clergy* mean *aggregate* bodies in a confederate condition, and are therefore terms representative of power. And though physicians generally are sometimes designated by the term *Faculty*, neither standing nor influence is associated with the name. For this state of things there must be a strong reason. And it is also a plain one. Lawyers and clergymen

act *in bodies*, and under compacts implied or expressed; while physicians act *individually*, without union or concert. In their power and influence, therefore, the former resemble well-disciplined veterans; the latter, new recruits, or militiamen, without discipline.

True; from the nature of their calling, and the established and necessary mode of pursuing it, lawyers and clergymen, especially the former, must act more in concert than physicians, whose vocation is comparatively isolated and solitary. For this the only remedy within the power of physicians appears to be, the exercise of strict courtesy and kind feelings towards each other as individuals, and the formation of special societies, to draw themselves more frequently and cordially together for common and friendly purposes, cultivate mutual acquaintance and companionship, and thus create in the Profession some degree of consolidation, and render it instinct with a spirit of unity. By such a course may medical knowledge and power be greatly augmented in our country, and the influence of the Profession be made much more available in benefitting the community.

Let us fancy to ourselves the formation, in each State in the Union, of a Society or College in chief of Physicians and Surgeons, with a competent number of subordinate or collateral ones, all educated physicians being members of them, and the whole in active correspondenee with one another. Add to this a great Central College for the Nation, composed of deputies from the State institutions, to meet at given periods, as a body of reporters, and an Amphictionic Council, to manage the medical concerns of the Union. Of such a confederacy the power would be immense, and might be turned to purposes the most salutary and glorious. It might be made to confer on Medicine, in the United States, an amount of grandeur and influence, and rear it to a pitch of usefulness and splendour, which have never belonged to it in any other country. As one of its high benefactions, it might reduce the profession to comparative harmony, by suppressing

the jealousies and cavillings, denunciations and calumnies, among its members, that have disgraced and degraded it, and taken from it the influence it might otherwise have wielded. But this is not all. By an interchange of communications, wide and varied far beyond any thing of the sort that had previously existed, it would, if such an event be possible, embody the whole medical knowledge of the Union in a *common stock*. Thus might there be brought against disease, in every quarter, the entire skill and healing power of a *National Faculty*. And thus might a light be sent forth to other nations, useful to them, and a source of professional glory to ourselves.

By the weight of such an organization of Colleges, empiricism would be crushed; and enlightened practice alone would prevail. Even schools of medicine would soon feel its influence, and be compelled to adopt such measures, and pursue such courses, as would no longer dishonor themselves and injure the Profession. No more artful and electioneering productions would issue from any of them, to palm on the easy credulity of the public, shams for realities, and fictions for facts. Nor would any Schools or their Professors be suffered, with impunity, to misrepresent and calumniate others, for their own benefit. In a word; the qualifications for medical teaching, then, would be talents and attainments, personal dignity, and moral standing, and a happy facility in communicating instruction; not the bluster of the pretender, the extravagant assumption of the self-eulogist, or the intrigues of the demagogue.

Toward the production of this great *national* arrangement in medicine, our College can, in a *direct* manner, contribute but little. It may, however, by the adoption and judicious employment of suitable measures, become instrumental in the establishment of other medical associations in Kentucky, correspond with them, and thus both confer and receive by the intercourse, high and lasting professional benefits. It occurs to me that a scheme of this kind conducted with judgment, and aided by an efficient individual correspondence, would

be better calculated than perhaps any other, to elicit and embody information, on the diseases and medical statistics of the Commonwealth. Nor can I doubt that all the physicians of the State, anxious to do good, and zealous for the improvement of themselves and their profession, would heartily concur in it.

As it is the purpose of the College to incorporate in its by-laws, all it may deem requisite respecting medical etiquette and decorum, my remarks on that subject shall be brief and few. Etiquette and decorum are but other names for courtesy and good breeding, with the requisite admixture of special fashion in them. And they are most successfully cultivated by intercourse and society. Companionship and intimacy between persons engaged in the same pursuits, rarely fail to beget mutual kindness and esteem, accompanied by a reciprocation of good offices. By meeting frequently in societies, therefore, exchanging thoughts and civilities, and giving utterance to feeling respecting matters of common interest, physicians will contract for each other professional and personal regards, which will do much in producing and maintaining between them those kind and respectful observances, which, decorum requires, and which usually mark the intercourse of cultivated minds. In a word; did physicians mingle together as habitually and familiarly, as lawyers always do, and as clergymen do, when circumstances permit them, they would live in equal harmony; and the jealousies and strifes that degrade the Profession, and detract from its usefulness, would be no longer spoken of in terms of reproach. Independently then of their rules and regulations to that effect, Medical Associations, from their natural influence, tend to the prevention of professional discourtesies, animosities, and wrongs. Between the many hundred members of the College of Physicians, and of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, of London, individual hostilities are rarely heard of, and acts of medical discourtesy and injustice are unknown; while personal friendships are numerous and warm.

But the noblest end at which Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons can aim, and at which they should never cease to aim, until it is accomplished, is yet to be mentioned. It is the purification of the Profession from all unworthy motives and practices, the expulsion from it of all that is mean, sordid and sinister, the advancement and security of its morality and honour, and the maintenance of its dignity. Medicine is a lofty and liberal calling, the fairest, foremost, and most efficient handmaid of benevolence and philanthropy; not a trickish, grovelling, money-making scheme of barter and traffic. Its true end is to minister to humanity and public good, not to personal cupidity and selfishness—to preserve life, restore health, and relieve the sufferings of the sick and the distresses of their friends; not to gratify the acquisitiveness, and fill the coffers of the covetous and the uncharitable. As respects every new case of disease a practitioner is called to attend, let his calculation be, how much good he can do, and how much credit he can add to his profession; not what amount of pecuniary profit he can make by the job. The physician who cannot, especially on pressing and perilous emergencies, forget himself, both as to danger and all other personal and selfish considerations, in the interest he feels in the condition of the sick, the honour of medicine, and the public welfare, is unworthy of his vocation, and will never rise in it to *enviable eminence*. He may prove a successful *trader* in it, but nothing more. He will never be decorated with its honours while living, nor have his memory embalmed by either its regrets or its praises when dead. Like the ingrate who is heartlessly indifferent to his country, and whom the poet has deservedly given to infamy, the sordid trafficker in medicine,

“Living shall forfeit fair renown,
And doubly dying shall go down
To the vile earth from which he sprung,
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung.”

In making these remarks, let me not be misunderstood. I do not mean that the practitioner of medicine is not to be rewarded

for his services. Far from it. Provided he be able, and faithful to his trust, no man is more worthy of a liberal reward. His education has been expensive to him, both in time and money; his professional labours are severe and burdensome, and his fatigues and exposures great and dangerous; and, in value, the services he renders are unsurpassed. To these elements of his merit, therefore, his compensations should correspond. But they should be required and made, with liberal views, and on honorable grounds. Hence they should never be exacted in cases where payment would create distress; nor, except in cases of marked injustice, through the medium of law. The widow, the orphan, and the honest and industrious poor should never be made to feel them.

Physicians, moreover, should have a mutual and fair understanding in relation to the rate of their charges. And from that rate, except under peculiar and palpable circumstances, no one should deviate. In a special manner, no one should *undercharge*, for the sake of acquiring popularity and business, and thus treacherously sapping the interest of his professional brethren. No man can be more contemptible, than he who higgles in a *cheap-shop in medicine*.

The modes in which our profession is demoralized and dishonored by its members, are numerous. A want of time, however, forbids me to do more than make a passing reference to a few of them.

The first of them I shall notice is the practice of dealing in secrets and nostrums. Under whatever form, in whatever manner this device may be employed, it is quackery, and should be frowned on and denounced by the members of the College. Nor should any companionship, social or professional, be held with those by whom it is pursued. It is the product of *ignorance*, heartless illiberality or *fraudulent artifice*. In the two former cases, it is contemptible, and, in the latter, no better than deliberate swindling. It is much worse; for, in addition to feloniously taking possession of money, it discourages knowledge and impedes its progress, inculcates falsehood

and perpetuates prejudice. Nor is this all. Admitting that a physician has really made a valuable discovery in the treatment of disease; is he justifiable in concealing it, for his own exclusive pecuniary benefit, and the relief of those alone who become his patients? Assuredly he is not. In its true spirit and bearing, medicine is a social profession—an institution of *benevolence* and *conscience*, rather than of *self*. The concealment referred to, therefore, is a *conspiracy with disease*; if not to aid it, at least to connive at its ravages, and give them scope, when they might be mitigated or arrested. And that is criminal. He who deliberately conceals a remedy or mode of treatment, that might prevent death, is but little better, if better at all, than an accessory to homicide. As such he deserves reprobation, not to say some form of punishment by law. Felons have been transported, and have even expired on the gibbet, for crimes much less inhuman and prejudicial to society. One of the most mischievous and reprehensible practices of our government, is its giving countenance and aid to nostrum-mongers and impostors, by granting them patents for the preparation and sale of their concoctions and mixtures. As well might it give public sanction to any other form of outrage on morality and truth. In some respects at least the granting of authority to counterfeit bank notes would be less pernicious. That would neither destroy human life directly, nor render remediable complaints incurable; while patent compounds frequently do both. This desecration of governmental authority should be condemned and protested against, not only by all educated physicians, but by every enlightened individual in the nation. The Medical associations of the United States in particular, and our College as one of them, ought not to regard such an evil with indifference. To deprive quackery in this form of the countenance of government would do something toward its entire extinction.

As a matter related to this subject, permit me to observe, that the establishment of a medical test in Kentucky, would be a measure creditable to the Commonwealth, and of deep

interest to the health and lives of its inhabitants. I allude to the passage of a law for the prevention and suppression of empiricism, so far as that can be effected, by compelling every one pretending to medicine to acquit himself satisfactorily under a strict examination, before he can be admitted to the privileges of practice. In most, if not all the other Western states, a law of the sort already exists. Its usefulness moreover, in those places, in guarding the sick from pretenders and impostors, is universally acknowledged. And our increasing swarms of steam-doctors, vegetable-mediciners, bone-setters, and other craft alike in infamy, render a provision of the kind as necessary in Kentucky, as in any other community. Would it not be well, therefore, so far to agitate the question, as to effect a call of a convention of the physicians of the State, to deliberate on it, and if deemed advisable, to submit its views of it to the legislature, in the form of a memorial? In such a movement, I cannot doubt, that the College would do its duty with fidelity and zeal.

It was my design to invite the attention of the College to certain sinister and unseemly practices, too often pursued for the procurement of business, even by physicians who call themselves educated. But a want of time forbids my treating the subject in detail. I can only refer to it in a few general remarks.

The means usually employed, by the practitioners alluded to, are misrepresentation and calumny, artifice and treachery—all designed to injure their rivals, and benefit themselves. And they are shaped, and applied, according to the ends their employers have in view.

Is there in vogue any form of treating diseases, somewhat new, respecting which the public have scruples, or which they are induced to suppose may be pushed to excess? The medical intriguer lays his account and arranges his means, to fasten such treatment on his rival—to fasten it, I mean, in *suspicion* and *report*. To make plain my meaning.

During part of the lifetime of the late Dr. Rush, the *lancet*, as reported to be wielded by him, was a weapon of terror;

and during another part of it, *calomel* and *jalap*. On the reputedly excessive and destructive employment of these remedies, the low and malignant calumniators of the time affixed their accusations. And by thus bearing false witness against their neighbor, they brought guilt on themselves, without dimming the lustre, or affecting the elevated standing of the accused. So lofty was the sphere, in which their intended victim moved, and so puny and feeble their own arms, that they could not bring their poisoned weapons to their mark. Had Professor Rush and his pupils done, by bleeding and purging, but a part of the mischief that was scandalously charged on them, the guillotine of faction, and the sword of Napoleon, would scarcely have been as fruitful in their ministry to the grave. But the charge was unfounded. Though erroneous and fanciful in many of his theoretical notions, Dr. Rush was one of the ablest and most successful practitioners of the age. And by vile attempts to sully, by calumnies, the well-earned fame of that distinguished teacher and accomplished gentleman, many an ignominious reviler rose to a point of notoriety, which, from the feebleness of his powers, he could never have attained in an honorable way. It is thus that Thersites lies embalmed in his own calumnies.

The chief theme of the slanderous imputations of the present day, is the excessive use of calomel. Too many physicians resort to unfounded representations on this topic, to injure competitors, conciliate public favor to themselves, and procure business. And their procedure is usually as treacherous as it is unmanly. While they denounce the bold use of calomel in others, they pursue it themselves—thus skulking under the cover of deception and hypocrisy. I could name habitual railers against the employment of that remedy, who administer it frequently in their own practice, in doses of from thirty to one hundred grains!—and at times in still larger ones! I conscientiously believe, that there is not a clamorous condemner of calomel in the country, who does not administer it in much larger doses, than he is willing to acknowledge. He

plays the hypocrite, for his own benefit—the public welfare, being a secondary object. In truth, I have never known either a practised and public fault-finder, or a secret whisperer of evil things against a rival, who was himself an honest and a trust-worthy man.

I do not say that calomel may not, like other medicinal substances, be given in excessive quantities. Perhaps it is thus given occasionally. But I feel convinced, that where that remedy is exhibited in inordinate and injurious doses *once*, it is maliciously reported to be thus administered, *one thousand times!* Unfortunately the public mind is steeped in prejudice against this article. Hence, as already stated, practitioners given to intrigue and hypocrisy avail themselves of that prejudice to injure their rivals. Nor is this all. The well known dread of calomel, which so generally prevails, induces honest and high minded practitioners to conceal, from motives of caution, the amount of the remedy, which they often administer. I could name physicians of this description, who reside in the east, as well as in the west. It is not true, therefore, that the administration of calomel in large doses is peculiar to the Mississippi Valley. The practice prevails, in a higher or lower degree, with enlightened physicians, wherever high grades of bilious diseases prevail. Nor do I hesitate to add, that, notwithstanding the dread of it which many entertain, and the condemnatory clamour maintained against it, calomel, when skilfully administered, is the *mildest and safest* of all the powerful remedies belonging to the *Materia Medica*. There is no other, whose dose can be increased so far beyond what is customary, with so little risk, and often with so much benefit. The apprehension of its doing mischief arises from the fallacious hypothesis, that it enters the system, mingles with the blood and other humours, and *settles in the bones!* Be that idle notion done away, and the fear of calomel will soon cease to annoy the practitioner and injure the sick. Calomel in substance never goes *beyond the alimentary canal*. On the mucous lining of that tube its immediate action is ex-

pended, its influence on other parts of the system being altogether *sympathetic*. And instead of *irritating* the alimentary canal, it often *soothes* it, and acts as an *anodyne*. This effect I have often witnessed, in cases of great uneasiness and distress. In truth it is a *common* effect of *full* doses of calomel, in diseases of *gastric irritation*. While *small* doses often *increase* the irritation, full ones relieve it. As an evidence that calomel does not enter the blood and circulate through the system, it is frequently, when administered in quantities unnecessarily large, discharged from the bowels, in a visible form by its own action. But I can dwell on this subject no longer. Nor is it necessary that I should. I am sure the College is sufficiently alive to the delicate and tender observance, that every physician should entertain and practice, toward the reputation of a professional brother. Nor will it fail to regard with marked disapprobation all breaches of such observance, wherever they may occur.

Let it not be inferred from the foregoing remarks, that I am advocating the "*heroic*" employment of calomel. I am neither defending nor condemning it. The ordeal of general experience can alone test its value—not the arguments, whether favourable or unfavourable, of any individual. To that test let it be brought—and be dealt by fairly. My only object at present is, to express my abhorrence of the unmanly and immoral practices of those, who, by artful insinuations, and groundless statements in relation to it, endeavor to *benefit* themselves, to the *prejudice* of others. Such conduct is ignominious in itself, and treasonable towards the profession.

But it is not alone physicians, in their individual capacities, that deliberately violate the morals of medicine, and contribute, by their misconduct, to bring reproach on the profession. However reprehensible and much to be regretted the fact may be, it is notwithstanding true, that, on the same point, associations of physicians, under the title of "*Medical Schools and Colleges,*" are, on some occasions, equally guilty. And when they thus forget themselves and their high vocation, and be-

come deaf to the calls of morality and honor, the mischief of their example goes beyond computation. Nor is any rebuke which indignation can frame, nor any condemnation that language can express, too deep for their demerits. By the influence of their sinister practices, they poison medicine at its fountain head, and render its entire current impure! My allusion is to the numerous electioneering artifices, which some of those institutions employ, and the misrepresentations they send abroad, to acquire popularity, attract pupils, and fill up their classes—and, as far as they can, to prejudice other schools. To dwell on all these abuses is not my intention. Were time even at my command, the task would be too offensive for the occasion. On one breach of morality, however, habitually committed by some Schools of Medicine, I deem it a duty, to offer thus publicly a few observations, and to speak of it in the terms of condemnation it merits. My allusion is to the deception practised on pupils, by groundless representations of the great advantages they are to derive, from an attendance on “Clinical Lectures” in Hospitals and Infirmarys.

That benefit may accrue from such lectures, to a *few* pupils, during the summer season, when they have no other engrossing and oppressive engagements, and when they have, therefore, leisure and opportunity to devote to the subject a sufficient degree of attention and time, is true. But, that a large winter class (say two hundred and fifty, or even a smaller number) required to attend daily six or seven professional lectures, and permitted to visit the Hospital or Infirmary but *twice* a week, and then allowed to remain in it, in a dense jostling crowd, only for an hour or two—that a class of such a kind, and under such circumstances, can profit by the sort of lectures delivered to them, consisting of *half-heard* hints and remarks on dozens of cases in rapid succession, *is not true*. Nor do those who proclaim the benefits of the mummery believe in its usefulness. They know the scheme to be but an *empty parade*, designed as an aid in *forming* classes, not in *instructing* them. Yet they persist in eulogizing it, because it decoys into

their toils a few more pupils, than they could entrap without it. But do they augment by the practice their *reputation for candour* and *fair-dealing*, as well as their classes? I put the question, let those whom they deceive unite with the consciences of the deceivers in framing a reply.

In plain terms; there is not, in the United States, a Hospital or Infirmary, an attendance on the practice of which is worth *a cent apiece* to the members of a large winter class! On the contrary, such attendance is *but a waste of time*; an assertion confirmed by the experience of *thousands*, and not invalidated by the experience of one! The following is an account of *Clinical Instruction* in the Pennsylvania Hospital, and the Philadelphia Alms-House, by far the best institutions of the kind in America, recently given by a physician of standing, who has been a witness of it for the last fifteen years.

“What is it then, that constitutes the clinical instruction of most of those who annually leave our grandest schools armed with their diploma? Some forty tours, performed at intervals of three or four days, throughout the wards of some great hospital, the attending physician or surgeon in the centre, and fifty or one hundred students crowding round him, on the level floor. They approach a bed. The medical attendant then, perhaps, may offer some remarks, though this is far from being universally the case, and when it does occur, a *few* of those who happen to be nearest perceive his meaning and observe the case. The middle of the crowd may seize some general principle, or treasure up some fact that the lecturer delivers; its application to the case before them being, like the patient, *placed beyond their ken*. Those of the outer circle occupy the time *in converse upon other topics*. The crowd moves on, but still some remain to tease the patient with ill-directed queries.” AND THUS ENDS THE FARCE—AND THE CURTAIN FALLS!

A few years ago, Professor Drake made an experiment on clinical teaching, in the Cincinnati Hospital, with a very limited class; that mode of instruction having been previously eu-

logized in no moderate terms. He soon, however, met with such stubborn obstacles, as induced him to abandon the enterprise, as either impracticable in its nature, or useless in its issue. Yet still is it used as a stated lure, to seduce pupils to the schools of that city.

Even in Paris, the great emporium of clinical teaching, experience confirms the truth of these remarks. In the Hotel Dieu, where a class of from two to three hundred pupils follows the celebrated teacher Chomel, the crowd around him renders his clinique comparatively uninstructional. In L'Hopital la Pitié, on the contrary, where the class is small, and ample opportunity is afforded for an examination of the patients, and for hearing the lecturer, the Clinique of Louis is of great value. Hence those young men who resort to the Parisian School, *for a name*, attend the Hotel Dieu; while those whose object is profitable instruction, pass daily several hours in the wards of la Pitié. And this they continue throughout the year.

On this mockery of instruction, as practised in the United States, I attended myself when a pupil, for a few weeks, in the Pennsylvania Hospital. Like other uninformed young men, I commenced the course with eagerness, and full of hope, because I had been deluded by its unmerited praises. Finding in it, however, nothing but a scene of idle parade and solemn emptiness, I turned from it in disgust, and abandoned it forever. And so did every other pupil whose object was *instruction*; because he could appropriate the hospital hours more profitably to some other mode of obtaining knowledge.

To pass these censures on Schools of Medicine is painful to me. It is painful, however, chiefly, *because the censures are just*. The abuses exist, their character is dishonorable, and their influence and example an unqualified evil, and a reproach to science.

Such are some of the subjects that call for our investigation of them, and some of the modes of inquiry, by which medical science may be improved by us; and such a few of the immoralities and abuses of the Profession, which need refor-

mation. Nor can I believe that the College will be either insensible to them, or inactive under a view of them. In affixing their names to its Constitution, the members of the institution, as heretofore intimated, have solemnly pledged their faithful adherence to it, in all its requirements. From their obligations thus contracted, therefore, they may not, I say, depart, without a serious violation of duty. And those obligations expressly bind them to promote, as far as may be in their power, whatever they may deem useful and honorable to the Profession, and to prevent and suppress, to the same extent, what may prove injurious or discreditable to it.

By virtue of their pledges thus deliberately given, Medical *science* and Medical *morality* have new and more powerful claims on the members of the College. Strong and sacred, moreover, as are the claims of the *former* of these, those of the *latter* are immeasurably more so. It is the moral of life that renders it honorable, and constitutes the chief element of its value.

What then is medical morality, that by clearly understanding it, we may more correctly appreciate it, and more inviolably observe it? It is, the morality common to human nature, more scrupulously and feelingly practised toward each other, by those, whom the habits and sympathies of the same pursuit have associated and formed into a band of brothers. Within this sphere it enjoins benevolence, charity, courtesy, forbearance, and justice to all, and forbids whatever may injure or offend. Medical morality is but another name for *brotherly love and kindness* in medicine, concentrating and mellowing the sterner virtues, heightening their activity, and directing their course. It is the morality of the New Testament diffused through the Profession, rendering it instinct with its beneficent spirit. And that morality is summed up in the golden precept, "DO UNTO OTHERS, AS YOU WOULD THAT THEY SHOULD DO TO YOU."

Be this the practical motto of our College, and harmony and decorum will characterize its meetings and movements, high

standing and reputation may be attained by it, and abundant good will result from its establishment. Let the same be observed as the motto of physicians in general, and a new era of usefulness and glory will open on Medicine.