INAUGURAL DISSERTATION,
ON
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BY
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Dedication

To
The Editors of the
Nashville Journal
of
Medicine and Surgery,

THIS ESSAY,
is
Most Respectfully
DEDICATED

by
The Author.
Honorable Medicine.

I do not propose at this time, nor in the present essay to enter into the history of medicine as regards the past—for be it from me to enter the list of Medical Biographers when so many masterly hands have preceded me—writers whose works have been read and admired by the learned and wise of all nations—whose history of medicine is referred to by them in high places.

Of what avail then would my feebler efforts be to interest others or yield satisfaction to myself. Therefore letting the past pass for what it
may, with an occasional reference to it, I shall proceed to ex-
amine the present state of the Science as I see it with "mine
eyes and hear with mine ears." Honorable Medicine thank God
has struggled on through many
a succession rise and fall, and
though at times it has been
almost extinguished, yet by
its own innate power it has
arisen, its flame burning with
increased brilliancy and like
pack thowards before the mighty
Hercules have the shackles im-
pover by bigotry and ignorance
been broken and standing
aloof from the vile contamination of loathsome charlatanism, remain to be appreciated and admired by the wise and just in every age and clime.

And why should it not be admired and sustained? What one science has contributed more to the elevation and happiness of the human race than medicine? Commencing almost with the beginning of man himself, it as a blessing sent from on high, has soothed his pains and restored health and happiness for thousands of years.
distinguished physician of our own
country and one of the late
presidents of the American Medical
Association is strikingly beautiful
and true. In his address to the
Association he used the following
language—"In all the struggles
which have marked the conflict
between truth and error, ig=
norance and knowledge,
Medicine has always taken a
conspicuous part, having ever been
a faithful antagonist, when not
a leading element in every
effort made to elevate and im=
prove the condition of mankind.
Now then! Seeking to alleviate
the sufferings of their fellow creatures and at the same time advance true knowledge. The devoted followers of Medicine have always looked upwards and forwards and toiling with indefatigable industry, have sought to place it far above all mean pretenders and purge from its folds such quacks as have secretly entered therein or more commonly those who have entered honorably but after once in, known and strong the hand that nourished them. Alas! how often is this the case. Men who have with honor graduated in a school of
good standing, and by teachers of reputed worth; after remaining in the profession sometime and acting like honorable men, after gaining the respect, confidence and esteem of their professional brethren—turn (the base traitors) and utterly repudiate their profession by manufacturing and sending a secret nostrum.

And, yet strange as it may seem, there are instances where these dishonest, betrayers, and gold loving villains, bastards in human health and happiness, have been placed in high places by an ignorant and prejudiced populace.
There is our instance fresh upon the minds of all where despite the remonstrance of by far the greater portion, in fact by nearly the entire body of the profession, a quack, a most unworthy has been made physician in chief of the great Blockly Hospital in Philadelphia, the pride and boast of the Medical Schools there. The consequence was every resident physician in the Hospital forthwith left in disgust, condemning in unmeasured terms this procedure and showing at the same time that they were men and honorable men, ye high minded gentlemen.
But some, and men of high standing, too in the profession in order to appease their wrath and get him into favor, say that now he has repented of his former following and is willing to act honorably with the profession from this time out.

I find as I suppose that there was more money in this than in that, he is now willing to act honorably with the profession. But this pitiful, flimsy and foolish plea had no effect upon these men of sense and justice only to excite their contempt for the one that uttered it.
It is not to be presumed that all quacks are ignorant persons, for though a portion of them are, yet again a great many in fact nearly all of them are intelligent, shrewd, well educated. Calculating villains. It has been said that ignorance breeds and nourishes Empiricism; if it does not breed it certainly nourishes this pestilential cormorant which is constantly hovering over the afflicted, seeking whom it may devour. It has formed its prey, it will continue to find it, as long as the common people remain unenlightened.
in Medical science. It has existed a long time and continues to increase and expand especially in our own country where there is nothing to hinder its progress. The ignorant Charleston catches up some powerful extract and adding a few simple, harmless drugs heralds it forth to the world as an Universal Panacea. It is different with the enlightenment grace. He gets some manuscript and makes molasses, and with the aid of a little Sarsaparilla or Cherry Bark to give it a flavor, forthwith floods the newspapers with certificates.
Remarkable instances, astonishing ones, be at the same time giving particular directions how to cure, among which stand very prominently "shake well before arising". One class is just as dangerous as the other, for whilst the first may hasten your dissolution, bring you to an untimely grave and people every one of them would say that you would have died anyhow, the other will tamper with your health until it is too late for a physician or any body else to do you any good, then he is
called in, but despite his efforts you die, then "all with one accord" begin to lament your case and swear that "if he had only continued Dr. Bolin's liver stimulants a little longer he would have recovered." The poor physician is now charged with putting him to an "untimely end." It is a matter of amusement mingled with disgust to know who authors of the signers of their certificate are. I will cite a case which came under my own observation.

A poor, ignorant gunsmith.
in the town of M——, who lives the very next door to the office in which I studied medicine, got hold of a recipe for curing that incurable disease Cancer. Being in the same town a very celebrated Cancer among other this poor fellow must of course procure a long list of certificates, headed of course by some "distinguished physician", an old and experienced medical gentleman."Finding no other he get the old man from whom he procured the recipe, who by the by was as ignorant as
a man could well be, especially as regards medicine for I have no idea that he ever looked between the covers of a medical book in his life) to sign his name certifying that he had cured, and would certainly cure all who would entrust themselves to his care.

In order to secure attention it was headed in large capitals, "Listen to the testimony of a distinguished physician".

It is axiomatic to add, his signature and I doubt its being genuine for I do not believe he could name a single letter in the Alphabet if
pointed out) was concluded by a flourishing M.D. This old illiterate root doctor palmed off in an intelligent community as a "distinguished physician!" However when his little circular gets off a few hundred miles where he is not known it will answer his purpose admirably, for scarcely any one will doubt but that he was so stated.

Let us look a moment at the conduct of newspaper publishers, editors, etc. Take for example Dr. James Consumptive Powder. This is the latest grand brain-buzzing extant and is familiar to
us all. He had, and has, got standing advertisements in every paper almost in the United States, subscribers to said papers read them sent on for some of his powders got completely and ingloriously humbugged; but little lost raise nothing about it.

Dr. James is stated to be a very old man and of course extremely honest; by and by some fellow gets picked up a little too bad, goes on to Jersey City and lets the "cat out of the cradle." He is found to be only about twenty-six years of age and a very man of pleasure.
What do we see now? Why every single newspaper editor in all the land, come out one after another and expose him in short paragraph placed in the editorial columns.

Well, we say "I am glad to see that, we will see no more in newspapers at least, of the Dr. James brumby". "Newspaper editors will hardly suffer his advertisement to be placed in their columns for the sake of a few dollars, when they know that some of their subscribers might be taken in as others had been before them." This is the way one reason but
alar! we are doomed to disappointment.
We not only see them stick, but
brackets are placed around them
in order to secure attention.
We are lost in amazement, but
it is so, I swear it.
But here we will leave them
for they do us no harm no
way, and if we were disposed
to enter into a description of
the absurdities of quackery or the
tricks and humbugery practiced
by them upon an unsuspecting
community, we would have
and endless task before us—
therefore let us return to the
honorable practitioner of medicine.
who (as he always has done and will continue to do) disconveances distains to notice the wrong changes these who disregard human health and life and are tainters in human blood.

I know it has been asserted by quacks that "regular doctors" have recommended these compounds, and advised their patient or patients to use them, and add too, that they were men of high standing in the profession.

I deny this in toto—I care not what may be a man standing previous to this—but as soon as he recommend a compound—
which he knows nothing of as began its construction; to his patient or patients, I contend that he has lost that standing. He may be ever so well versed in medical lore, he may enjoy ever so an extender a practice, but it does not save him from the scolding reprove and utter disapprobation of all high minded and honorable practitioners of medicine. Men of standing have been known to do it I admit, and it is not hard to give the ‘reason why’; it is to obtain a share of the profit, gold obtained at the expense of human life.
If I thought for one moment I ever would take advantage of a people’s confidence or have so little regard for human health or life I would stop the study of medicine right here and turn my attention to something else. Therefore let us all as true and devoted followers of the healing art, this ancient and honorable calling, as honest men and lovers of mankind, despise these evolvers in sheep’s clothing and as friends to humanity and true science, go hand in hand, let there be no contention, no wrangling, no unkind feelings, but
Seeking to elevate and sustain science and advance knowledge, to oppose bigotry and ignorance, and keep unmarred these glorious principles handed down to us from Hippocrates and other fathers—striving to rear an imperishable monument to Honorable Medicine "whose top shall pierce the very sky" and serve as a beacon light to all future generations.

Then the Medical Millennium will have come and quacks and demagogues scouted from the land. What a glorious time; now man to be desired!
To conclude permit us to quote the language of the distinguished President of the American Medical Association. In his address before that august body he concluded by telling how to act, in that beautiful quotation here presented. Let us go on

Our souls by love together knit,
Cemented, mixed in one;
One hope, one heart, one mind, one voice.