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What of Theory.

Man's superiority in the scale of existence is manifestly given him by the possession of a thinking, reflective and rational faculties. The mere possession of this, however, gives not a shadow of contrast within himself considered, but it is their exercise, that reflects the superior intellectual and immortal principle, and secures to him the innumerable blessings of this faithful culture, from which flow the rich rewards of man's humanity, and the virtues of his organized government. These faculties seem like a light from some prescient eye, when we consider the early
and friendly condition of man, and contrast them with the present, for it
was when the sorrows of an out-saged
world were poured upon him, that igno-
sance and ineffiency hung like a
 pall over his benthed and untutored
mind. The peculiar condition and
circumstances which surrounded man,
dened necessary that he should be
endowed with a thinking, theoretical
and speculative talent. For scarce had
the sun of seven days sunk behind
the western hills, when he was driven
from the possession of his birth-night,
and bid to call into action his physi-
al and intellectual being, producing the
first impression of life and decay,
and before the mind had received its
first conception of disease, or the susiact
Thus may the young mind, bewildered and astounded, date its speculation on the notions of life and death, and the first induction of disease; and its earliest endeavor to institute a science that has since directed into the mysteries of life and organization, and sought a remedy for every disease that afflicts our race. From these imperfections of the various notions and doctrines held in relation to disease and medicine, one would be led to believe, that they afforded no basis for a science, but a cursory survey of the early condition of society and literature, and the tide of
opposition that was everywhere met by those who endeavored to promulgate their opinions, seems a sufficient cause for the imperfection, confusion and distraction in relation to the Healing Art. Ignorance and superstition too, offered a mighty opposition, and wielded a sceptre of more irredentism, that baffled and crippled all the efforts of a science, that seemed to its young and ardent advocates to help the world.

The researches in Anatomy were violently opposed by a superstitious Priest-hood, with penalties of death, and they were prosecuted mainly upon the hypothesis of analytical reasoning which led to many errors in science and mischief in practice. The fall of evidence of a God of medicine gave no
ch speculability, and its claims to a
divine origin removed many difficulties and inspired its votaries to new
ergies and research.
The removal of disease by the ther-
aputical agency of medicine, and the
various phenomena observed in pathologi-
cal conditions of the system, gave rise
to many inductions, speculations, hypoth-
eses and theories; but their fallacies were
successively overthrown by new ones with
disputants and controversy. Had involved
the whole in much obscurity and
doubt. About this time arose the migh-
ty champion of free thought and
reason, and by his sagacity, research,
and learning, made many improve-
ments, and brought the profession
to a much higher degree of eminence.
Not content with the dogmas and empirical practice of his predecessors, and stimulated by a love of his art, he devoted himself zealously to its cultivation and advancement. He was thus enabled to throw light upon the deductions of experience, and clear away the false theories with which medicine had been loaded by those who had no practical knowledge of disease, and bring it into the true path of observation under the guidance of practice and reason. Although he acquired a living fame, and established infallible doctrines and principles that commanded the admiration and swayed the mind of the profession, and gained respect...
in the court of Law down to the present day, yet there much that is involved in doubt and obscurity. His Anatomy was defective—his Physiology abounds in errors, and some of his theories, illogically founded. But it is due to the immortal Father of Medicine, to say, that the ideal of twenty three hundred and seventeen years experience, has undiminished the lustre of many of his teachings, nor lessened the value of his practice.

To the Time of Galen, little or no improvement was made. The success of his practice, gave him great distinction; but this fine theoretic and speculative talent of writings encountered much
opposition. He multiplied the writings of Hippocrates, and the "splendor of his talent so completely dazzled his successors" that his opinions swayed the practice for many centuries. The discovery of the circulation by Harvey gave rise to new doctrines, the formulation of which met the severest controversy.

Beaumont, Sydenham and others, by the brilliancy of their intellects, and faithful observation, acquired great reputation, but added little to the time honored doctrines of Hippocrates, except in the treatment of exanthematos diseases. They refuted however many false notions, and Sydenham by careful attention to the phenomena
of disease, made many important improvements; and none deserve greater praise than she, for her time of change of treatment in the disease of Small Pox.

This has theory changed from time to time upon the more hypothesis of new discoveries, or the success of new experience. A little later, and we find the world excited upon the new and splendid theories of the great French Theorist Bonnare. The light and force of his reasoning, the ingenuity of his discriminations, and the plausibility of his subtle speculations upon Physiology and Pathology, drew conviction upon the mind of the Bepson,
and revolutionized all France in
the treatment and management of
diseases. A new era sprang forth
in the history of medicine, and his
doctrines were made resplendent by the
honors of his name. But it was
reserved for later philosophers to expound
his premises, refute his theories, and
bring medicine back to the light of truth by the test of experience.
The day of personal authority and
universal sway has passed, and the
great American principles of free
thought and free speech, prevail;
and the world is flooded with theories,
and doctrines, and the profession loaded
with an endless variety and
number of medical texts endeavoring
to establish the few facts known by
new processes and new theories. Phlegmations diseases yield but few demonstrative facts which indicate a simple treatment; but yet volume after volume, and treatment after treatment has been offered to the profession.

Theoretical essays upon false premises, or mistaken except-
one have been written, enjoyed a brief period of existence, and passed away before the light of truth and investigation. The entailed misery that many of these teachings have produced, can only be imagined when we think of the great abuse of the King of all medicine, Colonel. The commonly received
opinion in regard to the inflammatory character of the blood, and that maintained by Simon and Andral, two great lights of the profession, must exhibit beyond all points of disputation, many pathological and therapeutical errors in modern medicine. For the slight in excess or deficiency in the great Mariner's lekisp to therapeutical vessels upon unknown and inexperienced seas. And if the great Simon is correct, what of practice.

This with many other facts, play with much sport upon the theoretical ignorance of practitioners, and none suffer worse than those who theorize.
and practice upon Typhoid disease. All watch over and meet what they wisely term indications, but no one offers a specific for the nausea malkady. The beautiful analytical theory that maintains that the glands of the bowels suffer from a deficiency of the plastic element of the blood, does not account for Perimone or Periocular inflammation.

I pass many theories in Chemistry (even of the present day) and of the laws of generation, rising, growth, and contraction, together with numerous unsettled points in Physiology. the notions as maintained by the Philosophers of the South and West concerning
the cause of that clasp of fever
denominated malarial. The
beautiful theory of the great
senna of life and decay of the
animal and vegetable kingdoms
and the sustenance of one upon
the other by the different processes
of nutrition and animation, and
the great destruction of the latter
acting injuriously upon the former,
seems to be too well founded in
fact to deny.

When great destruction and
decay of the vegetable kingdom,
or forests went on before the progress
of civilization in England, and the
soil was stirred, loaded with vegetable remains—malarious diseases
were rife; but as time advanced
and the country become "clean up." These diseases become less frequent until they are now unknown. Such is true of other sections.

The settling of new countries whose climate is favorable is followed by the same diseases. The generation of many gases, poison to the human economy, in marshy regions is an opinion that has long been maintained; and the frequent occurrence of malady affections and the strong affinity that poison has for moisture and its transition by fogs and winds have established the belief that they
are due to the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter. The firm of their occurrence too has added much strength to this belief. But the many exceptions that seem to oppose this belief have invited much discussion and investigation.

Dr. Ferguson has shown that malarial diseases of the most fatal character have existed in many regions which were perfectly destitute of both vegetable growth and deposition.

The great Philosopher of the West, Dr. Erak, has left us much of his writings on this
this subject and the distinguished Dr. Bowling of the Nashville University has thrown much light upon this subject by his investigations. The geographical ranges and types of these diseases have been lucidly pointed out by him. But this question is yet unsettled; like many others—the exception is often taken for the law and the law for the exception.

Notwithstanding theory after theory has passed away before the slow tread of truth and experience, it has done much to elucidate, adorn, and beautify science and like the Pillar of Fire
To the children of Israel, has led science through the obscure and difficult paths through which it has had to travel—beginning with the primal condition of man, touching all succeeding ages until the present light of its practical truths is shed over an universal world.