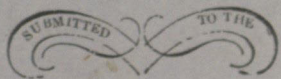


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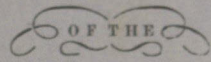
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION,

ON

Honorable Medicine;



PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY



University of Nashville,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

Eugene Henderson
OF

TENNESSEE.



CHARLES W. SMITH,
BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
NASHVILLE, TENN.



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 - far 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 those in high places.

Of what avail then would my feeble 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 though many
 a successive 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 theards before the mighty
 Hercules have the shackles im-
 -posed by bigotry and ignorance
 been broken; and standing

aloof from the viles contamination
of loathsome charlatanism, remains
to be appreciated and admired
by the wise and just in every
age and clime.

And why should it not be adm-
=red 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 hap-
=piness for thousands of years.
To me the language of a dis=

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distinguished physicians 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, ignorance and knowledge, Medicine has always taken a conspicuous part, having ever been a faithful auxiliary, when not a leading element in every effort made to elevate and improve the condition of mankind. How true! 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, turned and
 striking the hand that nourished
 them. Alas! how often is this
 the case. Men who have with
 honors 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 vending a secret nostrum.

And, yet, strange as it may seem, there are instances where these dishonest, treacherous, and gold loving villains, barterers in human health and happiness, have been placed in high places by an ignorant and prejudiced populace.

There is one instance fresh upon
 the minds of all when despite
 the remonstrances of by far the
 greater portion, in fact by nearly
 the entire body of the profession,
 a quack, a nostrum vender 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, yea 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 repudiated his former following and is willing to act honorably with the profession from this time out.

Y. Finding 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 Villians.

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 found its prey - it will continue to find it, as long as the common people remain unenlightened

in Medical science. It has ex-
-isted a long time and continues
to increase and expand especially
in our own country where there
is nothing to hinder its progress.
The ignorant charlatan 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 indighted
quack. He gets some mean whiskey
and worse molasses, and with
the aid of a little Sarsaparilla
or cherry bark to give it a
flavor, forthwith floods the
news papers with certificates,

“Remarkable instances”, “astonishing cures” &c &c at the same time giving particular directions how to use, among which stands very prominently “shake well before using”.

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. Bolus' Liver Stimulator 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 most of the signers of their certificates are. I will cite a case which came under my own observation.

A poor, ignorant gun-smith

in the town of M—, who lived
 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 Monger
 this poor fellow must of course
 procure a long list of certificates,
 headed of course by some
 "distinguished physicians", an
 old and experienced medical
 gentleman".

Finding no other he gets 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 useless 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 when 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, &c. Take for example Dr. James' Consumption's powder. This is the latest grand humbug extant and is familiar to

us all. He had, and has yet 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 said 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 wallet."

He is found to be only about twenty six years of age and a gaming man of pleasure.

What do we see now? Why every single newspaper editor in all the land, comes out one after another and exposes him in short paragraphs 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 Humbug". "Newspaper editors will hardly suffer this 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 we reason but

alas: 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 discription of
 the absurdities of quackery or the
 tricks and humbuggy practices
 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) discountenances disdains to notice the money changers these who disregard human health and life and are barterers 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 professions.

I deny this in total. - I care not what may be a mans standing previous to this - but as soon as he recommend a compound of

which he knows nothing, nothing as
 regards ~~its~~ compositions; 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 extended a practice, but it
 does not save him from the
 scathing rebuke and utter disapproval
 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 "season why"; it
 is to obtain a share of the
profits; 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, dispise these wolves 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 untarnished those
 glorious principles handed down
 to us from Hippocrates and other
 Fathers - striving to rear an imper-
 ishable Monument to Honorable
 Medicine "whose top shall pierce
 the very skies" and serve as
 a beacon light to all future
 generations.

Then the Medical Molesters
 will have come and quacks
 and demigods scouted from
 the land. What a glorious time!
 Now much 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.