

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON
The Quack

SUBMITTED TO THE
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DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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To the Faculty of Medicine,
of

The University of Nashville.

The following is respectfully Submitted as a Thesis; and the writer hopes that the circumstances under which it was written—Yours, will be a sufficient excuse for the imperfection, and brevity of the article. The Subject is one that should not only command the notice but the close scrutiny of all; Physicians, as well as every one else. It is the Quack! and in attempting to say something of this would-be popular individual, it is proper that we ask the questions, "Who is the Quack, properly so called?"

From what class of people does he
Spring? And of what is he made up?
In ~~noticing~~ ^{we answer to} these questions, the
first as near as we are capable
of forming an idea of him,
that he is a heartless, soulless, and
in a great many instances a
brainless, insignificant being,
Stalking about on the face of
the earth with the exterior of hu-
manity, but differing materially
from them in the inner man.

From what class does he Spring?

This though asked, is not our
province to determine, as this
relates more particularly to him
and not to his birth or parentage,
Leaving those into whose hands this
should fall, to imagine.

He may have had all the advantages that a thorough collegiate training could afford, he may be of the very first family in our country, yea! he may have been reared by parents whose cheeks would mantle with shame, and whose hearts would shudder at the idea of committing crimes like those that characterize his course through life. His last, dying request of his Father & Mother may have been "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

But having that innate principle of meanness stamped upon his ~~heart~~ heart, he has gone forth into the world equally regardless of fellow-feeling, self-respect, and human suffering.

to practice deeds of the Devil. Of what
is he composed? of all the elements
that go to make up one of the most
disgraced and detestable of all Gods
creatures. He should be loathed and
contemned as a leper in our land.

The English language is barren
of terms sufficiently strong to exp-
ress the contempt with which these
fellows should be treated. - The appella-
tion of Doctor, used to be some
honor to a man who might by dili-
gent study acquire it, but the com-
mon people have hugged these vile
hypocrites to their bosoms, and given
to them a name which they disgrace,
by possessing it. Till now it is of
very little consequence with the high
minded Physician what he is called.

But thank God "there is nothing in
a name", let one of these dissemblers
come into a neighborhood, professing
to cure this, that, and the other disease
and see how readily he is jumped
at by those who know literally
nothing of him or diseases. And
what is it for? I would ask because
he says he will do so and so for
far less - in a pecuniary point of view
than will the regular Physicians.
They never stop once ~~to~~^{to} ask them-
selves the question, is he competent?
No, the saving of a dime is suffi-
cient with a great many to cause
them to employ him. And what
cares he for the health or happin-
ess of those whom he dupes? if he
can but obtain the "almighty dollar."

Nothing! He has an eye single ^{alone}
~~to~~ to the heaping up of the "Pelf"
of this earth, and not to the well-
fare of Humanity; as we are comm-
anded to ~~have~~ have. The Physician ~~is~~ used
to be, was looked upon by the Society
in which he lived, as a man posse-
ssed of intellect, learning, and per-
ceptibility, as generous, warm hearted,
kind, philanthropic. But alas!
how wholly different is the case
since the advent into the world
of this vast horde of Impostors?
How little respected ~~(~~and~~ ~~disregarded~~ ~~and~~ ~~contemned~~)~~
~~is~~ is he, who
has bent all his energies, who has
toiled by day and by night, yea!
has clipped his midnight taper fl-
ickering in its socket by his side,

to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the healing art, to enable him to go forth into the world untrammelled by ignorance, to practice his profession of benevolence and philanthropy, Sure that the knowledge he has gained at so great a sacrifice will be his sheet-anchor in all coming professional contests, that it will sustain him through the trials, and perils he will have to encounter in this unfriendly world; where there are so many that are ready at the least offence and very often without offence, to complain, to backbite, to slander, by even charging, - Should a patient die under his care, of having been the indirect cause of his death.

Oh! how much of this does the Physician
have to labor under; How God-like
and yet how unthankful is his
profession! Physicians! unlike Quacks,
are a band of brothers, each striv-
ing after the same end, "The good of
humanity," and each possessed of
high refined tastes, of exquisite se-
nsibility and fine feelings. And
all this railing, abuse and accus-
ations are a source of continual
annoyance to them, though they bear
it submissively. Acting up to the
high calling they have espoused they
heed it not; treating the accuser
- who is often times the Quack, with
that Supreme contempt he ~~justly~~
deserves. And it is an astonishing
fact, - considering all the disast

advantages the Physician has to labor under, - that there are so many young men engaging in the unthankful occupation; every winter, witnesses hundreds & thousands flocking to the various Schools of Medicine in our country. And for what! to learn to prepare and vend worthless resturms? to acquire a knowledge of the art of making Pills compared to which a Mustard ^{seed} is a Mountain? No! No!! but to learn an honorable, a heaven-called, and heaven-blessed, profession; - to fit and prepare themselves for the full discharge of the duty which God has assigned them, and which they have humbly taken upon themselves; - that of relieving poor suffering

humanity of the diseases entailed upon us by the fall of Adam.

And (unlike Quacks) they do this not from pecuniary considerations, but for a love of "Filly-Cure," not from a desire, altogether, that they should have high sounding names among men, - not that his wealth should be increased by extorting enormous bills from his neighbor, No! No!! No!!! but from far higher motives, motives which are never known to actuate the deeds of kindness, the narrow-minded, contemptible Quack, from motives of brotherly love, and an honorable discharge of that duty next in degree to religion itself.

But I am digressing from

the Subject which it was my purpose to consider when I set out; but it is to be hoped that either Siasm will be a sufficient excuse.

Then back again to the point, the Quack! do you ever hear of any thing emanating from him in the way of Medicine that is in any degree honorable? Never! "The Quack!" and when I say Quack, I mean what is termed Quackery, either in Man or Measures, it is true there are some who it might be said are very clever fellows, who belong to this odious fraternity; but I am inclined to think they are "few and far between," I once knew one of these miserable hypocrites, (and I presume it will not be

considered amiss to speak of what he
did in this connection. He had gain-
ed some reputation (not honestly) in
Dropsy; some called him "the dead shot,"
in this disease, and so he proved
in the long-run, for he "shot" sev-
eral out of this world; one I am very
confident. But to the point; he was
passing by the house of a gentle-
man, who hailed him, and asked
him to alight, and go in, and
see his wife; who he said was very
sick. The fellow delighted at the
opportunity, forthwith dismounted
and went in, made some few
examinations (about which he knew
no more than did the horse he rode.)
and immediately proposed to the
Lady, that she ^{should} take some of his "Pills."

the Lady at first objected, telling him she had much rather have her old family Physician, - calling him by name. - However through the persuasions of her husband, and the entreaties of this "Wolf, in Sheep's Clothing, he, all the while assuring her that they (the Pills) were perfectly harmless in their action, purely legitimate, and that if they did her no good they would positively do her no harm; and taking the advantage of that wide spread prejudice, that exist in many parts of our country against Calomel, he pledged his word and honor (neither of which were of any value with him,) that they had not the least possible atom, of that "filthy drug," as he called it

in them. As might have been expected the Lady consented. And the Scoundrel accordingly pulled out his little "four square trial," containing about a dozen or so of his "Pills," and gave her four of them, and ordered that in case they should fail to produce an evacuation of the bowels, in three or four hours, ~~that~~ the dose ^{should} be repeated. The result was, that in a very short time the Lady was most shockingly Mercurialized, for which her husband had to pay the guinea, and then employ the Physicians to cure her. And this we find to be the case with all of them, they will lie without any compunction of conscience, to any extent, to

accomplish their ends; in short,
they are a very disgrace to any
Society which has the misfortune
to have one of them in their mi-
dst, they contaminate the very
Soil on which they walk. Every News-
paper almost is loaded with their
infernal falsehoods, they care no
more for the well-fare of those whom
they dupe, and to whom they sell
their poisonous preparations, than they
do for the ground upon which
they walk. And they know no more
about treating diseases upon a
philosophic principle than the A.S.
They make publications in Newspapers,
Almanacs, and in ^{various} other forms,
of their Spanish Mixtures, their Pan-
acea's, their Pulmonic-balsams, their

world-renowned Pain-killers, their
Fever and Ague compounds, and
their never failing "Wake-Robin";
the last purporting to give imme-
diate and everlasting relief to
all those who may be so unfortu-
nate as to be afflicted with that
loathsome disease called Cancer.

The Faculty I presume know some-
thing in regard to this "Wake-Robin."

The Professor of Surgery not a great
while since had to perform
the ^{Rhinoplastic} ~~operation of Rhinoplasty~~
in the case of a kinsman of mine
for disease of the Lip. Who at once
Supposing that he was laboring un-
der this form of disease, and heari-
ng of the cures performed in it, by
one of these abominable Charlatans

~~It~~ concluded to give him a trial.

~~He~~ The fellow as soon as he saw it, pronounced it Cancer, told him he could cure it certain, there was not a shadow of a doubt about that part of it; put on his "Wake Robin"; as he called it "another!"

He was going to knock the Cancer into a perfect "Cocked Hat"; well he did so I suppose; he pat him at all events, (as the name of his stuff imports) and kept him awake about a week, and in about six months he pat him again, by making fifty dollars up out of his pocket, and then did not cure him. So the Professor of Surgery had to apply a little of his "Wake Robin"; to make a final cure; and he did it!

Thus it is with all of them. But I rather
or expect they might be considered
advantageous to the regular Physician,
for instance, in the way of the
two cases spoken of, and I reckon they
ought not to be dealt so hardly by.
But how is one to help it, when we
see so much of their infamous
proceedings! We sometimes see
this personage at public places,
there selling his detestible inventions,
which he declares, will cure all manner
of diseases, from the Belly-ach to the
consumption, head-ach, tooth-ach,
ear-ach, back-ach, and all other
ach's to which the human family
are heir, in less than one minute
by the watch; He will stand for
hours and hours together, gassing

about his Liniments for the old
and infirm, and his Lotions for
the young and delicate; or forsooth
he will tell the gaping crowd a-
round him, that he has made
a most wonderful discovery in
Medical Science, he has found the
great "⁶⁶Touchstone," in Physic that
is to turn all diseased bodies into
healthy action again, he has brou-
ght into being by his deep knowledge
and profound skill, one of the
most delightful remedies it has
ever been the good fortune of
this world to possess, is perfectly
adapted to suit the wants of all,
can be taken by all from the
youngest Babe to the oldest inha-
bitant of the globe, with perfect

impunity; and perhaps he will
say this Medicine combines all
the virtues in its composition
that are requisite to a thorough
and complete eradication of
that formidable Maledy called
Consumption; will cure Scroffula,
Dyspepsia, Obstinate Cutaneous eruptions,
Bilious disorder, and Debility
of whatsoever kind or shape. These
and thousands of other ridiculous
assumptions, he will have the hardi-
hood to stand up in the face of truth
and assert their claims upon the
people, then we meet with their
--- I cannot call it Medicine, but
we see it in different forms, in
Liquid, in Powder, in Pills, put into
Vials, and Bottles, and Boxes, and all

Stamped the "Genuine article," and
all labelled "Beware of Counterfeits,"
accompanied with the exclamation,
"What a bold Counterfeiter," O Man!
have you no Shame? No convictions of
right and wrong? No pulse that beats
in common with suffering huma-
nity? No regard for the present
nor fear of the future? Why! Why!!
will you thus attempt to swindle me
of the reputation I have with the
masses, by putting forth a Spurious
article resembling mine, and thereby
cheat those who would otherwise pur-
chase the "Genuine," prepared by me
alone. But thank God there are
good men enough in this world
to appreciate, to justify, and to defend
the regular Physician, and to con-

damn "the Guack, with that condemnation that knows no appeal. There are good men every where, in obscurity, in retirement, beneath the shadows of a thousand dwellings, scarcely known to the world, and never asking to be known, there are good men in adversity, in poverty, and in temptations, amid all the severity of earthly trials; there are good men whose lives sheds brightness upon the dark clouds that surrounds them. And may there are to be found in the Medical profession!

But it is true, if we must admit the sad truth, there are many, very many who are wrong, and persist in being wrong, that may are false to every holy trust, and faithless

toward every holy affection; that many
are coldly selfish, and meanly sensu-
al; yes! cold and dead to every thing
that is not wrapped up in their own
little earthly interest. And many of
this kind you will find in that
insignificant "Brotherhood, known as
"Quackery;" Be it so: this is not all
we are obliged to believe. No! there
are true hearts amid the throng of
the false and faithless. There are
warm and generous hearts, which
the cold atmosphere of surrounding
selfishness never chills; and eyes
unused to weep for personal sorrow,
which often overflow with sympathy
for the sorrows of others. Yes there
are such men, who amid injury and
insult, and misconstructions, and

The pointed finger, and Scornful Lip
upturned at them, stand firm in
their integrity, and allegiance to a bet-
ter principle, and still their throbbing
hearts in prayer, and hush them ~~to~~
to the gentle motions of kindness
and pity. Such witnesses as these,
there are even in this bad world;
Yea! even in our God-loved, and
heaven-befriended Profession; Signs
that a redeeming work is going on
amid its derelictions; proves that
it is not a Profession forsaken of
heaven; pledges that it will not be
forsaken; tokens that cheer and
touch every good and thoughtful
mind, beyond all other power on
earth to penetrate and unblindle
it. 'Tis truly said, we live in an age

of progression; that everything is going forward to a more perfect destiny; that man is progressing in Science, in the arts, and in every thing that approaches to perfection.

This same power has assumed empire in the Kingdoms of politics, and the dynasties of religions, where the watch-word is still improvements, and if it be the case in Politics and in religion; we justly say also in Physic.

But of this we will not now speak, only remarking, that under its influence, the equal right of Man, as conferred upon him by his God, are recognised and sustained; while Tyranny, of every Species, passes under condemnation, and totters to its fall. Then being one of those crea-

atures fashioned after God's image,
and having that right conferred upon
me alike with my brother man; I
claim that I had the right to say
all I have said of the diabolical
sect, under which this article is
written, "The Guack. Unshackled freedom
~~is~~ political, social, and religious,
takes to itself its own inherent
rights, and spurning from its pres-
ence the Kings and Queens of
this earth, prepares for its own strength,
triumphantly to mount the
throne of the nineteenth century.
Pure and bright as the unobscured
Sunbeam, and immortal and
immaculate as its own heavenly
origin, it ascends the Seat of
power. There may it reign and

Stray the empire of the universe,
till the world shall end, and time's
last notes be heard, sounding upon
the trumpet of eternal dooms.

end