until all its lands are completely cultivated and improved, that until they are an agricultural nation ought to employ its industry in increasing the surplus of raw materials and provisions, and procure from commercial and manufacturing states through the medium of commerce, refined and expensive manufactures. If by the terms productive labour, be understood exclusively the production of human food, it will be admitted that the labour which is devoted to the improvement and cultivation, is not only more productive than labour employed in any other way, but that it is the only employment of labour to which the epithet productive can be applied, and that every other employment of human labour is not only unproductive but positively destructive, in as much as in no other way, if we except pasturage, hunting and fishing, can the labourer reproduce the subsistence he consumes.—But if we annex to the terms productive labour a more liberal and enlarged acceptation, if we regard every employment of human industry as productive which affords happiness, and that employment as most productive which affords the most exquisite and extensive means of happiness, then we may justly consider the industry of the manufacturer, the merchant, the artist and the navigator, not only as equally, but as far more productive than that of the cultivator of land. In order to establish the superior productiveness of agricultural labour it has been urged, that nature co-operates with the cultivator, that her grandest and most powerful energies, the principles of vegetation, the elements and seasons spontaneously and powerfully second his operations and multiply an hundred fold the fruits of his labours; that in art, manufactures and commerce on the contrary, nature refuses to co-operate; all the operations incident to their employments are performed by man. It would be difficult to find even amongst the vain subtleties of the schoolmen, a more frivolous, unfounded and unphilosophical distinction than this. Do not all the other qualities and energies of matter depend upon the principles of nature as immutably and necessarily, and second the operations of man as spontaneously and powerfully, as those of vegetation? Are not muscular strength and mechanic force, the dexterity of art and the efficiency of tools, the power of engines and the treasures of invention, as essentially dependent upon the principles of nature and as powerful agents for the advancement of human happiness, as those genial influences that ripen the fruits of the earth? It is alike degrading to nature and to the dignity of man, the noblest work of nature, to consider agriculture as the only employment in which her laws co-operate with human industry, or that employment of human labour as most productive, which furnishes the means merely of satisfying our animal wants and multiplying the number of animals. The exclusive application of the term productive to agricultural labour, will appear more palpably improper, if we recollect that the productiveness of this species of industry depends essentially upon the cheapness and perfection of the implements of husbandry, by means of which the efforts of the cultivator are greatly facilitated and simplified; and secondly upon the number, variety and extent of the markets, in which the raw materials and superfluous provisions in the hands of proprietors and cultivators of land may be exchanged for manufactures, and lastly upon chemical discoveries and inventions relative to the nature of soil and the influence of light, heat, moisture, electricity, &c. on the principles of vegetation. The second position, that no country is ripe for the establishment of manufactures, until all its lands are completely cultivated and improved, is not less questionable. There are many circumstances that ought obviously to limit and modify the practical application of this principle. If the country on which an agricultural nation depends for a supply of manufactures be distant, their price will not only be considerably enhanced by the expence of transportation, but the supply also will be fluctuating and uncertain; if the manufacturing country depends for provisions and raw materials not upon one but upon many countries, the expense of transporting the rude produce over a vast extent of land and water, (which in the case of articles so ponderous and bulky must necessarily bear a very considerable proportion to their prime cost) will fall exclusively upon the producers, and their exchangeable value will be still farther depreciated by the uniform competition of other agricultural nations in foreign markets, and the occasional glut of those markets in consequence of favorable seasons. If, farther any one country in consequence of the superior perfection and variety of its manufactures, or in consequence of their exclusive temporary monopoly of particular fabrics, should be able to vend their manufactures in foreign markets at a very extravagant price, if their price should be enhanced by accumulated taxes and profits, which although successively advanced by the dealers, must be ultimately paid by the consumer: if these manufactures, instead of being adapted to the wants of man and calculated to promote the comfort, accommodation and happiness of society, have been, for the greater part, invented for the purpose of gratifying vanity, ostentation and pride, of distinguishing one order of men from another, the despot from his subject, the great from the petty oppressor, the master from the servant, this circumstance whilst it will still farther enhance their price will render their importation and consumption a powerful means of corrupting the simplicity of agricultural manners and the purity of republican principles; and will introduce and diffuse a despicable attachment to expense, ostentation, sensual refinement and parade. The evils to be apprehended from this source will probably appear most alarming to those who have reflected most impartially and profoundly on the causes of national immortality and degeneracy; and will be proportioned to the love of ostentation and expensive luxury that may happen to prevail in consequence of pre-established habits, of a frequent and extensive intercourse with corrupt societies, and of the establishment of combinations and orders addicted to luxury and expence. The existence of any, and much more of all these circumstances, would render it expedient for an agricultural nation to establish refined manufactures long before their lands were completely cultivated and improved. A third principle which has obtained general currency is, that manufacturers and mechanics are necessarily a more ignorant dependant and degraded class than the cultivators of land, that they exercise a species of industry less intelligent and more precarious; that they approach more nearly to the nature of animals and machines, and that they are more liable to be duped, corrupted and dragooned for the purposes of ambition and oppression.—This may be true in regard to the mechanics and manufacturers of Europe, altho' it will probably be found that the serfs and tenants of the territorial monopolist, are as stupid, destitute and venal as the breathing automata that ply the shuttle, the hammer and the forge; that stupidity and destitution are entailed as extensively and permanently upon the cultivator of the soil by the establishment of territorial monopoly, as upon mechanics and manufacturers by corporation laws and statutes of apprenticeship, or upon the commercial class by exclusive companies, dependant colonies and mercantile privileges. From an accurate analysis it will probably appear, that, as monopoly and oppression on the part of the few, where the necessary and universal causes of the destitution, venality and ignorance of the many, so freedom would become the cause, equally necessary and universal, of intelligence, independence and probity. In a country where the cardinal rights of person, property and reputation are firmly secured, where every individual is free to adopt whatever employment he prefers, and to abandon it whenever he thinks proper, and is compelled to surrender only such a proportion of the fruits of his industry, as may be necessary to secure to him the compleat possession and free use of the remainder, every citizen, however employed, will be able to obtain a fair proportion of the necessaries and comforts of life, the means of intellectual improvement, will feel the dignity of a freeman, and the spirit of independance.

CENSOR.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

*The Sixth Volume of the "*MEDICAL REPOSITORY, *and* Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Science," *conducted by Drs.* MITCHILL *and* MILLER, *has just issued from the press of Messrs.* T. *and* J. SWORDS, *in New-York. The following preface contains an account of the work, which will be read with interest by the Medical Profession, and by all who regard the progress of science in the United States.*

Having now completed the sixth volume of the *Medical Repository*, we think it expedient to incorporate this and the preceding five into a distinct whole; and here to close the present course of the work; in order afterwards to proceed with a new series of volumes of the same number, and conducted on a similar plan.

The set of six volumes, which is intended to form an entire work, independent of what shall follow, is denominated the first *Hexade*; a term which the classical reader will instantly perceive is designed to express a series of *six*, as the analogous and more familiar term *Decade* is used to signify a series of *ten*. The unwieldiness of a larger set of volumes, and the desire of accommodating new subscribers, have chiefly induced us to adopt this plan, which we hope will be acceptable to our readers.—By thus reverting to the point of beginning, we will likewise, periodically, to renew the spirit and alacrity of those exertions which instituted the work, as well as to afford an opportunity for such as did not originally assist us by their communications, now to contribute their share of correspondence and patronage.

It will be unnecessary to direct the reader's attention to the benefits which have resulted to Medicine, as well as to all other sciences, from the adoption of periodical publications. They are now so far multiplied, in every part of the learned world, as to form a considerable portion of the means by which knowledge is diffused through all grades of society, and brought within the reach of every enquirer. They present the best means of concentrating into a focus the labors and observations of all who devote themselves to science. They conduce not only to extend the circulation, but also to augment the number and excellence of medical communications. Substantial discoveries and improvements may generally be exhibited in a few words, and ought always to be made known in that simple, cheap, and expeditious manner, which belongs alone to periodical publications. Voluminous and systematic works the benefits of oral instruction and individual correspondence, are often inaccessible to persons who are ardent in the pursuit of knowledge; but of the source we here recommend all may participate who feel a disposition to enquire. The prevalence of this kind of publications, marks an era in the history of the human mind. To cultivate or neglect them may well be considered, at present, as a test of the progress or torpor of society. Their influence on the scientific body may be compared to that of the arteries in the animal body, which carry nourishment, warmth and life, to the most distant parts. Or, rather they may be described, perhaps, with more propriety, as the great conductors by which knowledge is transmitted with electric velocity, through the civilised world.

The advantages of periodical publications in Medicine and Surgery, and all the auxiliary branches of Science, were never so conspicuous and universally acknowledged as at the present moment. Since the commencement of this work, a revolution in the mode of conveying medical instruction to the public has taken place in most parts of Europe, and more especially in Great-Britain. Monthly journals, instituted on liberal principles, and possessing a circulation of unprecedented extent, collect with avidity whatever can promote the progress of medicine, and then diffuse it every succeeding period, to the most distant regions of the earth. The number and reputation of such publications on this subject in Europe, now surpass all former example, and are incessantly pouring forth a stream of actual practical information, which, in value and copiousness, has been hitherto unknown in the annals of science.

The institution of this work was originally undertaken as an experiment on the condition of society and the progress of science in the United States. We were fully aware of the labour, difficulty, and discouragement which await such attempts, of the fate of former publications in this country, and of the uncertainty of success in this untried field of enterprise. For that public spirit which has constantly assisted our exertions we then could only form our wishes; of the reality of its existence we entertained the utmost doubt.

On a retrospect of the six years employed in completing this first Hexade of our work, it is with equal pride and pleasure that we survey the mass of communications which has enabled us to render the publication acceptable to our country. Such a number of contributions to medical and physical science as our correspondents have enabled us to exhibit on the pages of the Repository, is without parallel in American literature. They have been presented by persons in the United States who are among the most distinguished for science, liberality and public spirit. We shall hazard no rashness of assertion by declaring, that a large proportion of them would do honour to the oldest countries, and are alone sufficient to demonstrate the futility of many of the reproaches which are still so frequently thrown on the American character. For this amount of communications, equally unexpected and flattering, we beg leave, in this public manner to return our thanks. Let the physicians of the United States behold what may and has been done by the aid of their liberal encouragement and co-operation. Let them learn that every country abundantly possesses the materials of similar undertakings, which only require collection and arrangement. And let them likewise learn, that a great many of their communications to the Medical Repository, which, perhaps, were written chiefly as the amusement of an hour at leisure, after traversing in that vehicle the ample territory of the United States, have been republished in European journals, and through the medium of various languages, have been circulated throughout the learned world.

In the choice of such papers as correspondents submit to our disposal, we are uniformly inclined to prefer those which are founded on facts and experience, and are practical and useful rather than speculative. We wish always to bear in mind the fallacy of hypothesis, and the durableness of observations founded on truth and nature. Conformably to this, it appears, on a retrospect of six volumes, that the practical papers bear a large proportion to the rest of the work. The period at which our editorial labours began, and during which they have been continued, must be confessed to be singularly interesting in the history of American epidemics. *Pestilential diseases*, formerly so rare in this country as to have been almost forgotten, have become lately so frequent and fatal as to spread universal alarm. Our correspondents, justly considering this as the most prominent object, have bestowed upon it a principal part of their attention. More than ninety essays or papers concerning the history and phenomena of pestilential epidemics, or collaterally relating to that subject, are found on our pages. Besides these, a variety of other diseases are particularly treated of, in a manner which reflects credit on the learning and talents of the respective authors.

Natural History, which in this young country presents so many aspects of novelty and interest, has not escaped the contributions to this work. The naturalists will not, indeed, find so great a number of communications on this subject as might be wished, or as the state of our country might readily supply.—When it is recollected that an immense proportion of our territory has never yet been explored by a zoologist, botanist or mineralogist, there will appear every inducement duly to appreciate the few observations we have received, and as far as possible, hereafter to add to their number.

Nor have our correspondents been inattentive to the interesting province of *Chemistry*, which is allied to so many other sciences, the parent of a multitude of the arts, is incessantly extending its dominion, and may be asserted to comprehend among its objects every substance on the globe. Many of these communications we have received on this subject are read with avidity in every part of the world where letters are cultivated.

Our *miscellaneous* communications, dispersed through the six volumes, and which cannot distinctly be referred to any one head, are numerous and respectable. Many of these enter deeply into the science of the human frame, and generally of the animal economy; an inquiry which is rapidly rising to the distinction it deserves, and must soon be considered as one of the most interesting pursuits of the human mind.

As to these parts of the work, for which the Editors themselves are more immediately responsible, we shall take the liberty to detain the reader only with a few remarks.

In the department of *Review* we have undertaken an arduous task, which nothing but the importance of its relations and consequences could have induced us to hazard. An account of upwards of one hundred and thirty publications, in the course of the work, has been laid before the public. Among many other advantages of the Review, we hope it will be found to preserve the remembrance of some small and fugitive performances of merit, which hereafter may interest curiosity, and which otherwise, in the lapse of time, might be liable to be lost and forgotten. It has been our practice, in general, to offer an analysis of the work under examination, and more particularly to exhibit such parts as included any discovery, improvements, or other substantial merits which are thought worthy of special attention. Nor have we forborne, generally to submit our judgement of the character, tendency and utility of these performances; being persuaded that a review, unaccompanied by such declaration, is little entitled to the respect of the public. We are aware that this part of our duty is full of difficulties, and that, after our best exertions, we are often exposed to the charge of partiality and moroseness. It is not easy always to conciliate the minds of author and reader, as each may be unreasonable or unjust. But the opinions of a reviewer are merely the opinions of an individual; and the author who finds himself aggrieved, may make his defence before the same tribunal of public justice at which he was arraigned. On the points of controversy, which agitate the physicians of this and of other countries, we have not hesitated explicitly to deliver our opinions. And our opponents on these questions, whatever may be their other objections, will not accuse us of versatility or indecision.

Our departments of *Medical and Scientific Intelligence* is subdivided into a *domestic* and *foreign* head. Under the former it has been our aim to collect and arrange whatever of useful, instructive, or interesting matter our country presents to view, to state facts which appear to bear any important relations, and to place on record many things worthy of preservation, which though generally well known at present, are liable to be forgotten or distinctly recollected. Under the *foreign* head, we have endeavoured to exhibit, in a condensed point of view, the substance of all that vast mass of matter which is incessantly issuing from European presses; carefully selecting what is new, important, and applicable to the use of our country, from whatever is of an inferior character. In doing this, we are aided not only by an extensive correspondence with men of science in different parts of Europe, but also by a multitude of the periodical publications in that quarter of the world which we regularly receive, and from which our readers observe copious extracts are frequently taken.

On a review of the volumes which now complete our first Hexade, notices will be constantly found, more or less minute in proportion to their importance, of all the leading discoveries and improvements in medicine and the auxiliary sciences, which have occurred within the period in question. On this point alone, we might be contented to rest a great portion of the value of the work. Many physicians are remote from libraries, and even if access to them were easy, have no leisure for extensive reading. To such, the Medical Repository will faithfully announce every article of medical intelligence which deserves attention, and, at the same time, give an abstract of much of that new and interesting matter, which the modern traffic of book-making is too apt to scatter through a multitude of volumes. But it ought likewise to be duly impressed on our readers, that, while we consider a selection of the more important foreign intelligence, and other new matter, as constituting a very valuable part of our work, the number of original communications from correspondents in this country, and the quantity of American intelligence, not to be found in foreign journals, are, in our judgement, sufficient to stamp a solid and independent interest on the Medical Repository.

To prevent misapprehension, it will not be improper to observe, that we are moved by no lucrative considerations in the conducting of this work. The Editors have hitherto derived no emolument from it; and every prospect of that is at present so remote and uncertain, as to offer no encouragement of such expectations.

Being now about to undertake a second Hexade, we are determined to remit nothing of the diligence and zeal with which we flatter ourselves the first has been conducted. The first volume will be immediately begun and published as heretofore in quarterly numbers. We trust our correspondents, to whom we are already so greatly indebted, will continue to afford that assistance which has always served to lighten our labour, and to animate our exertions.

The subject of medical Biography has been too much neglected in the United States. Physicians certainly owe it to one another to commemorate the talents and virtues of all who distinguish themselves in a profession, so closely allied to the progress of general science, and to the best interests of humanity. It will constantly give us pleasure to be instrumental in recording the merits of such of our countrymen as have deserved well of the republic of medicine.

Our leading objects since the first establishment of this work uniformly have been, to form a centre of communication for the contributors to science in all parts of the United States: to rescue from oblivion the fruits of the experience and observation of our medical brethren, scattered over a widely extended territory; to allure men of talents from the inactivity which diffidence and retirement are too apt to impose, by soliciting their communications; to give early and authentic information of all such discoveries and improvements in any part of the civilized world, as fall within the limits assigned to our publication; to offer some small return to the learned nations of Europe, for the obligations we owe them as our original instructors and parents in science; and finally, to institute a national work, which may assist similar designs elsewhere in exciting the energies, developing the productions, and hastening the maturity of a young and rising empire. How far we have succeeded in these endeavors, is willingly submitted to the candor and justice of the public.

☞ *Editors of newspapers in the United States, are respectfully requested to insert the above.*

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