

ticularly the country ones, are scantily supplied—and that in all, the supply is precarious and expensive;—for it cannot be supposed, that those who procure subjects, at the hazard of liberty and life, will expose themselves, without compensation, corresponding with the risk they run.”

Dr. M. concludes with the following just observations on the inadequate endowments of institutions for medical instruction, and which are of nearly general application.

“Our medical schools are now supported, almost entirely, at the expense of their respective professors. Is this creditable to the great and prosperous State of New York? What is the reason that such a distinction has been made between the medical colleges and the colleges of arts? Do not medical schools require libraries, chemical and philosophical apparatus, and museums of anatomy and natural history? Can it be expected that professors, from their scanty receipts, will furnish all these, and pay contingent expenses to boot? And if they do, can it be reasonably hoped, that we shall ever possess institutions that can equal the liberally endowed establishments of other countries? Is not the community as much interested in having well endowed medical colleges as literary ones? If so, why has the state made such a distinction between them, in the bestowment of her bounties?

“I do not mean to intimate, by these remarks, that the literary institutions have shared too liberally the bounty of the state. On the contrary, all of them are inadequately provided for. There is scarcely a petty principality in Germany, that cannot boast of a University, possessing a library, containing more books than all our colleges, theological, medical and literary, put together. Some of them have also splendid collections in natural history and other departments of science. I need hardly mention here, that in all these our colleges are sadly deficient; and there is not a single botanical garden in the state.

“Since the amendment of the constitution in 1822, not a dollar has been appropriated by the legislature to elevate our literary or medical colleges. In the mean time millions have been expended on other objects. Canals and rail-roads have been made, and others are in progress in all directions. Every thing, in short, has been done for meliorating the physical condition of the citizen; but what has been done for his moral and intellectual improvement, by our constituted authorities? Nothing—literally nothing.

“Are we never to possess but common schools, and academies, or institutions whose limited means permit them to rank no higher? Must our children encounter the storms of the Atlantic to seek, under other governments, advantages denied them under our own? We hope, that a more liberal spirit will prevail, and that the legislature will set apart some of the wealth of the state, for the purpose of placing our higher seminaries of learning on such an eminence as will enable their professors to look around on kindred institutions in other countries, without feelings of humiliation or consciousness of inferiority.”

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ART. XXII. *A Report of the New Haven Medical Society, on the expediency of repealing that Section of the Medical Laws of this State, which excludes irregular Practitioners from the benefits of law in the collection of fees.* New Haven, 1837. 8vo. pp. 16.

The General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, at their Session in May, 1836, received petitions from various parts of the state, praying for a repeal of the law which enacts that, “no physician or surgeon, who shall have commenced practice since the year one thousand eight hundred, or who shall hereafter commence practice, shall be entitled by law to recover any debts or fees for such practice, unless he shall have been duly licensed by some medical society or college of physicians.” These petitions are said to have been got up, and principally signed, by the friends of what purports to be a new system of medicine called the “Thomsonian system.” It appears to us to argue a deplorable state of things, when such petitions should receive any attention. The



legislature of Connecticut, did not, however, follow the disgraceful example of a neighbouring state, and grant the prayer of the petitioners; but postponed the petitions to the next session, with an order for a citation to the medical society. In consequence of this citation the Medical Society of New Haven county, adopted the report, the title of which we have given, as expressive of their views in regard to the proposed measure.

This report furnishes a conclusive demonstration of the principle, "*That it is the right and duty of government to protect the people in every possible manner against any trade, craft, or profession, in which the public has peculiar interest, and in which the temptations to defraud and deceive are great.*"

Writing as we do for the profession alone, it will be needless for us to repeat the arguments adduced by the society; it would be going over ground with which our brethren are familiar. But this report should be inserted in the newspapers and widely circulated, so that it may get into the hands of unprofessional persons—those most interested.

ART. XXIII. *An Examination of Phrenology; in two Lectures, delivered to the Students of the Columbian College, District of Columbia, February, 1837.* By THOMAS SEWELL, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. Published by request. Washington City, 1837: pp. 70, 8vo., with 8 plates.

This is the most dispassionate examination of the phrenological doctrine, and the strongest array of arguments against its validity, that we have met with. The first lecture comprises a sketch of the origin and progress of phrenology, with an exposition of its leading doctrines, and of the principles upon which it is founded. In the second lecture the question is examined of how far the science is reconcilable with the anatomical structure and organization of the brain, the cranium, and other parts concerned. The subject is treated in a very plain and lucid manner, so as to be perfectly intelligible to general readers; and is, moreover, illustrated by some well executed and interesting plates. The learning and high standing of the author entitle his views to a respectful and attentive consideration; though we must confess that we are not prepared to admit the validity of all his facts, or adopt implicitly all his conclusions.

ART. XXIV. *Directions for the establishment and government of Lunatic Asylums.* Translated from the French of Brierre de Boismont, M. D., by E. QUINCY SEWELL, M. D. (From the Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Vol. III.)

The prize offered in 1834 by the Society of the Medical and Physical Sciences at Brussels, for the best memoir on the establishment of a Lunatic Asylum—its location, the disposition of its grounds, its internal arrangement, government, and medical attendance, was awarded to the author for this essay. It is a highly interesting paper, and particularly so at this moment—several of the States of the Union being engaged in the construction of asylums for their insane poor. We have recently devoted so much space to the subject, (see our last number,) that we need on the present occasion only recommend the memoir of Dr. Brierre to the attention of those interested, and return our acknowledgments to Dr. Sewell for the service he has done in rendering it generally accessible through a translation.