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Medical

Having discussed the Theoretical, we now pass on to the Practical parts of our course. In our Physiology we have described the human body as gradually unfolding ~~itself~~ itself from a small particle till it attained its acme or full growth and had acquired all its healthy actions & functions. We have discussed more or less all these functions, as separately acting. Then we spoke of them as acting either alternately, or simultaneously, according to the exigencies of the animal; and lastly we have spoken of them as sympathizing with a wounded, or diseased part; and here we found that each & every part of the body sympathized in a sound or in a diseased state; and we rendered it, I believe clear that unless the practitioner had some notion of this sympathy, or consent of parts he would make serious blunders in the course of his practice. Our last Lecture was principally on the remarkable sympathy w^c the Stomach has with each & every part of the body. We dwelt particularly on the sympathy of the Stomach w^c the Skin. We reminded you that the Stomach & Skin were the only two organs tow^c we applied all our remedies, and this was sufficient to shew their power of communicating impressions to every part of the system.

The intention of the present Lecture is to illustrate still farther this power of sympathy, & to give you the an idea of the first impression of a disease, or the reaction of the system against an offensive cause. We wish to convey this simple idea, before we even venture to give you the most

simple

simple form of the simplest Fever viz an Intermittent. Throughout our Doctrine of Diseases, we shall aim to give you Principles; and therefore, as principles applicable more or less to every acute disease. It w^d. be absurd for us to Lecture on a long catalogue of Diseases; on the contrary we shall only select such as will illustrate the laws of the injured system, & of the means. Nature uses to throw off the Disease, & restore it to its healthy or pristine state.

The great use of giving you Lectures on the Practice of Physic is to inculcate principles, or the laws of the disordered human body; and not give you a narrative of the symptoms & mode of treating every disease as they promiscuously arise. For these we refer you to books; but we mean throughout to give you such a view of human pathology, that you shall not be entirely at a loss should you be called to new diseases, or rather diseases with new & extraordinary symptoms, yellow, or spotted fever, or the like.

It is not difficult, in consultations, to discover if a Physician has principles, or if he practices by rote, or in a certain routine like an Empereur.

In treating the subject of the reaction of the system, we are compelled, from the very nature of the thing, to use a degree of circumlocution as when we discussed, the Vis Vitee or life.