

medical institution, thus secure, as far as practicable, to the people of the State, competent and well qualified men, to whom they may apply in the hour of sickness and corporeal suffering, with some rational prospect of relief, and protect them from the charlatany of those whose pretensions must be founded either in ignorance or cupidity, or both. The study of medicine embraces an extensive range. A knowledge of Anatomy and Physiology are essentially requisite to enable the physician to understand the material upon which he desires to produce a given effect; as a knowledge of the *materia medica*, the agents he has to employ. The practice of medicine embraces the history of disease, its various symptoms, causes, and means of prevention and cure.

A knowledge of Chemistry is also necessary to enable him to understand the nature, the properties and affinities of the different substances with which we are daily surrounded, and particularly those of a deleterious character, without which knowledge he would be unable skillfully to compound medicines, to detect poisons, or judiciously administer antidotes. The study and successful practice of surgery and obstetrics, it is scarcely necessary to observe, are founded upon a knowledge of anatomy, without which the surgeon's knife is but an instrument of death, and the practitioner of obstetrics a name too insignificant to mention.

The undersigned have thought proper thus briefly to notice the essential pre-requisite knowledge for the practice of medicine in this State, under the existing laws.

The undersigned will now briefly advert to the principal object of the memorialists and petitioners. It is to enable the Botanic or Thompsonian Physicians to practice their system of medicine and charge for the same;—to practice this system, no previous study is deemed necessary, and all the qualification required, is to purchase a patent right and a small octavo volume, containing the life and theory of a Mr. Thompson, whose followers seem to think has discovered a royal road to the temple of science, and whose little volume, like the shoe-buckle of Paracelsus, contains more learning than all the universities in the world. The plea in favor of the Botanic system, that it prescribes the use only of vegetable, and therefore innocuous remedies is founded on a want of information at least, if not a design to impose on the credulity of the public, by the use of a term; for it is well