

The history of every age and of every country demonstrates the fact so incontestably, that it has passed into a proverb, man is the creature of extremes. His restless mind, forever versatile and fluctuating, knows no medium, but oscillates, with unceasing vibration from one extreme to another.

Were any evidence demanded of the truth of this remark, the history of the science of medicine would furnish it in abundance. Such an examination will convince us that the fashions in physic are no less ephemeral and opposite than those which we observe in politics and in the beau monde. The opinions and practice of the followers of the intrepid and daring Paracelsus, contrasted with the blind and bigoted devotion of the Galenists, to the dictums and aphorisms of the Coan Sage, present pictures as strikingly different as any two colours in nature. At one time the system of Boerhaave was the prevailing system throughout the medical world. Preternatural viscosity and morbid lentor of the blood were phrases, familiar in the