

**BRIEF EXPOSITIONS OF  
RATIONAL MEDICINE: TO WHICH  
IS PREFIXED THE PARADISE OF  
DOCTORS, A FABLE**

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Brief expositions of rational medicine: To which is Prefixed The Paradise of Doctors, a Fable by  
Jacob Bigelow

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**JACOB BIGELOW**

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The Paradise of Doctors,  
A FABLE.

BY

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THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, &c.



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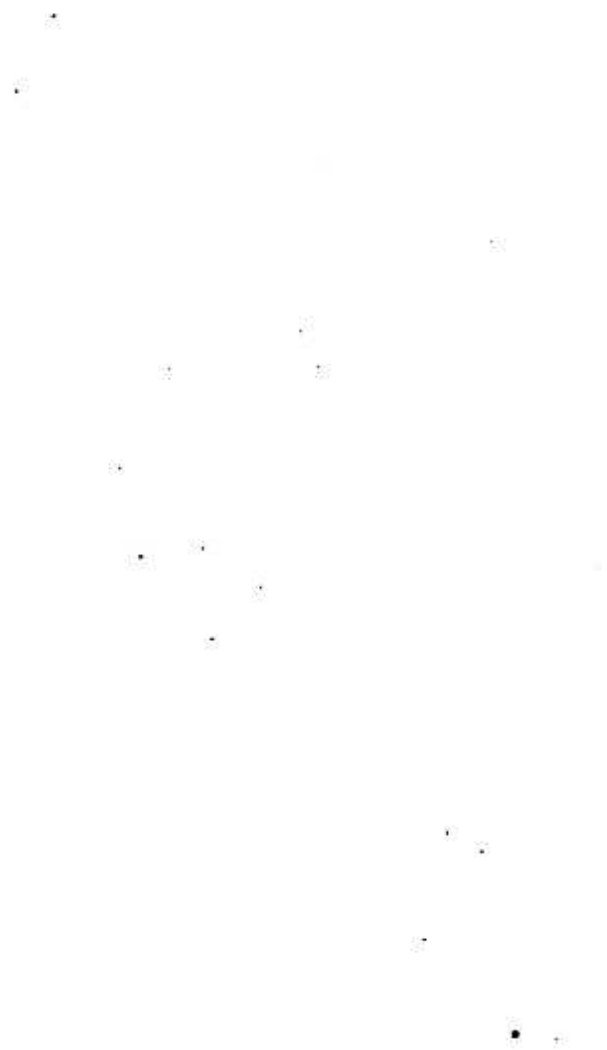
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TO SIR JOHN FORBES, M.D., F.R.S.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON,  
PHYSICIAN OF THE QUEEN'S HOUSEHOLD, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR:

The distinguished and influential position which you hold in regard to principles, many of which are advocated in this little publication, renders it proper that I should present it to your notice as an humble auxiliary in the promotion of a just, and, I hopefully trust, a growing conviction in the public mind, as to the true mission and powers of the medical art.

It is known to you that it was my intention to have published in this country an edition of your very able volume entitled "Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease," in connection with some other publications of like tendency which have appeared on this side of the Atlantic, and to have embodied the whole under the title of "Rational Medicine." Of this plan, as well as name, I had the pleasure to receive your approval and your concurrence in its execution. But after the whole was prepared, and

placed in the publisher's hands here, the unforeseen appearance of a New York edition of your work rendered superfluous the proposed undertaking.

The world will duly appreciate the labor and learning which, during half a century, you have brought to the aid of true medical philosophy, and, in a particular manner, the impartial investigations which you have lately made in regard to the part performed by nature in the cure of diseases. Convictions in a measure similar to your own have, at the same time, found their way into other minds, and generally in a near proportion to the testimony afforded by prolonged experience. Twenty-eight years ago I read before the Medical Society of this State a Discourse on Self-limited Diseases, which, I have reason to believe, was not without some influence at the time and since on the minds of the profession here. This discourse was afterwards incorporated, with other essays, in a volume entitled "Nature in Disease." I now hope that the crowning and convincing testimonies afforded by your noble work on the comparison of nature and art in the cure of disease will be instrumental in causing the extravagances of a so-called heroic and overactive practice on the one hand, and of a nugatory and ignorant practice on the other, to be replaced by something which may deserve the name of **RATIONAL MEDICINE.**