

*Note.*

GEOLOGY, beyond almost every other science, offers fields of research adapted to all capacities, and to every condition and circumstance in life in which we may be placed. For while some of its phenomena require the highest intellectual powers, and the greatest acquirements in abstract science, for their successful investigation, many of its problems may be solved by the most ordinary intellect, and facts replete with the deepest interest may be gleaned by the most casual observer.

To the medical philosopher Geology presents peculiar attractions for those hours of leisure and relaxation, which are indispensable to maintain a healthy state of mind; for it requires the cultivation and application of chemistry, botany, comparative anatomy, zoology, and physiology—sciences which form the very foundation of medical knowledge. It exerts, too, the most salutary influence, by calling forth the continual exercise of our intellectual powers; for the desire to explain what is obscure in the natural records of the past, induces a more accurate examination of existing physical phenomena, and of the organization and habits of the living beings within the reach of actual observation. It enforces the necessity of weighing the conflicting evidence of apparently irreconcilable phenomena, of detecting differences, or seeking analogies, and of generalizing and combining an immense number of isolated facts. The mind thus acquires the power of acute observation, of patient investigation, and of salutary caution in drawing inferences and arriving at conclusions—habits of the first importance in the discrimination and treatment of diseases. I therefore entreat my medical brethren not to be deterred from the pursuit of so legitimate a source of the most elevated gratification, by the apprehension lest their professional success should be retarded by a reputed taste for science. Happily the time is now arrived, when the empty boast of possessing *only* professional knowledge, is no longer considered a proof of superior medical skill, but, on the contrary, an unequivocal acknowledgment of limited acquirements, and evidence of contracted and imperfect views of the subjects