

Oration from 1843

Oration Title:

Sympathy of the Stomach or Digestive Organs with Other Organs or Parts of the Body

Orator:

Thomas R. Boutelle, M.D.

Abstract of Oration:

Dr. Boutelle believes that the human body is capable of curing itself of many diseases. However, physicians must regulate these bodily functions with drugs to prevent the body from overcompensating which may result in harmful effects.

The author presents cases to illustrate his point. His first case involves a young woman who suffered a prolonged mental "derangement," which the doctor considered to have been caused by "the character of the contents of the stomach." He presents another strange case which he attributes to a problem in the functioning of the liver. Boutelle then presents a few cases of successful cures based on his presumption that the patients' ailments stemmed from their digestive organs.