

***SOUTHWOOD
SMITH***



***USE OF THE DEAD
TO THE LIVING***

Southwood Smith

Use of the Dead to the Living

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FROM THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

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—
1827.

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The following pages contain an article extracted from the Westminster Review, an English periodical of considerable reputation. On its appearance in Great Britain, it excited great attention; and, indeed, has been there reprinted in a cheap form for general distribution. The author (Dr. SOUTHWOOD SMITH) deserves the thanks of the community for the talents he has displayed, and the lucid and powerful manner in which he has investigated the important subject under consideration.

The editors believe that they are discharging a duty to the community in presenting it to them for perusal and consideration. They will not conceal their wishes, that it may have a favorable effect on a bill now pending before the Legislature. Both in a general point of view, as well as with reference to the particular institution to be benefitted, the arguments are particularly applicable; nor will an enlightened body of men be deterred from doing what they

may deem their duty by the unparalleled impudence of those who *now* cry out against monopoly, when they have risen into importance by monopoly, and have, always, while it suited their views, been its most persecuting and vindictive advocates.

It is due to truth to state, that the suggestion of the republication of this article, originated with a member of the Senate of this state, and who does not belong to the profession.

February, 1827.

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FROM THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

An Appeal to the Public and to the Legislature, on the necessity of affording Dead Bodies to the Schools of Anatomy, by Legislative Enactment. By
WILLIAM MACKENZIE. Glasgow. 1824.

Every one desires to live as long as he can. Every one values health "above all gold and treasure." Every one knows that as far as his own individual good is concerned, protracted life and a frame of body sound and strong, free from the thousand pains that flesh is heir to, are unspeakably more important than all other objects, because life and health must be secured before any possible result of any possible circumstance can be of consequence to him. In

the improvement of the art which has for its object the preservation of health and life, every individual is, therefore, deeply interested. An enlightened physician and a skilful surgeon, are in the daily habit of administering to their fellow men more real and unquestionable good, than is communicated, or communicable by any other class of human beings to another. Ignorant physicians and surgeons are the most deadly enemies of the community: the plague itself is not so destructive; its ravages are at distant intervals, and are accompanied with open and alarming notice of its purpose and power; theirs are constant, silent, secret; and it is while they are looked up to as saviours, with the confidence of hope, that they give speed to the progress of disease and certainty to the stroke of death.

It is deeply to be lamented that the community, in general, are so entirely ignorant of all that relates to the art and the science of medicine. An explanation of the functions of the animal economy; of their most common and important deviations from the healthy state; of the remedies best adapted to restore them to a sound condition, and of the mode in which they operate, as far as that is known, ought to form a part of every course of liberal education. The profound ignorance of the people on all these subjects, is attended with many disadvantages to themselves, and operates unfavorably on the medical character. In consequence of this want of information, persons neither know what are the attainments of the man in whose hands they place their life, nor what they ought to be; they can neither form an opinion of the course of education which it is incumbent on him to follow, nor judge of the success with