prevent us from realising that medicine is a very difficult science and art that requires long and arduous training and is not learned by intuition - and, speaking for ourselves, we would still rather entrust our health to a dishonest doctor than to an honest ignoramus who believes that the liver is in the big toe.

In our opinion, those comrades are wrong who take the side of a given therapeutic system just because the inventor professes, more or less sincerely, anarchist ideas and looks like a rebel, thundering against “official science”. We, on the other hand, are immediately on our guard if we see that someone wants to use their political ideas to get their scientific ideas accepted, and makes it a party matter.

There is a tendency among us to find true, beautiful and good everything that presents itself under the sympathetic mantle of revolt against accepted “truths”, especially if it is supported by those who are, or claim to be, anarchists. This shows a deficiency in the spirit of examination and criticism - something that should be highly developed in anarchists.

It is all very well not to consider any of the achievements of human intelligence as definitive, and to aspire always to new discoveries and new advances, but it must be borne in mind that the new is not always better than the old, and that the quality of anarchist does not bring with it the gift of infused science. (…) we do not think it is too much to ask that those who want to criticise and fight the old methods should know what they are and what are the established facts in favour of or against them.

In other words, we simply ask that those who want to talk about something should
Does Malatesta perhaps offer us a false choice, having to choose between a dishonest doctor or medical scientist, and an honest self-appointed expert who doesn’t know their subject?

Do we have to maintain a general deference culture towards established doctors, medics and scientists, even if they are often technically correct in their particular specialism?

Does scientific knowledge and expertise have to be the monopoly of an elite technocratic class? Is it not the case that today’s skilled and educated workers can start to build up a wide body of knowledge and expertise themselves?

Read on and ponder...

Errico Malatesta (1854 – 1932) was a passionate anarchist agitator who opposed all forms of political order based on hierarchical power and authority. He argued for the creation of a free and equal society based on mutual aid, a harmony of interests, and the voluntary participation of all in carrying out social responsibilities.

As well as using his words Malatesta was an active militant, participating in a number of insurrections during his lifetime, such as “Red Week” in Italy in 1914, and the workers’ factory councils movement in Italy in 1919.

Sneezepotato Pamphlets: Opinionated pocket size pamphlets printed on paper, stuffed into envelopes, and sent through the old postal system: Publishing political noise: Operating on a personal level: Tangible things and pings: Keeping horizontal and international lines of communication open: Mutual aid, co-operation, free stuff, eat more salad….

Produced by Sneezepotato Pamphlets in 2022. For free distribution.
sneezepotato@yahoo.co.uk