

ing the medical thought of the American profession. That we have been affected by French and German scientific methods, especially in later years through our close association with Johns Hopkins, goes without saying, but they have been modified by passage through English channels. The majority of our students still go to London rather than the Continent. Whether this has been a misfortune or not is a debatable question. If we missed the direct quickening influence of the scientific awakening of the French and German schools, we have avoided the therapeutic nihilism which followed in its wake. If our medical horizon has thereby been narrowed, if we have remained too much under the thralldom of authority, having accomplished little in the way of original investigations, we have avoided the tendency which for a time made the study of medicine an accumulation of dry scientific facts, obtained by the observation and research into the phenomena of disease as exhibited by plants, animals and man in the aggregate, rather than of an art which has for its main purpose the prevention or relief of pain and suffering as it affects the individual. Moreover, what Osler says of the American profession applies equally to our own, "Justice compels us to acknowledge that while winning an empire from the backwoods, the people of this land had more urgent needs than laboratories of research." Medicine with us, as with the English-speaking people in general, has been essentially utilitarian and practical, exalting the art rather than the science. "Sydenham, not Lineacre or Harvey, is the model English physician in whom was concentrated all those practical instincts upon which we lay much stress in the Anglo-Saxon character (Osler)." As the result of this practical trend our race may lay claim to most of the great discoveries which have lessened the suffering of mankind. Sydenham introduced the treatment of malaria by quinine, Jenner discovered vaccination, Simpson and Morton general anæsthesia, and Lister the use of antiseptics in surgery.

There is apparently at the present time a movement to pursue scientific work along lines of more immediate value to the clinician, as exemplified by the revival of interest in the study of therapeutics and the brilliant researches of Sir A. E. Wright. This closer association of the science with the art of medicine will more strongly appeal to men of our race. The maxim of Sir Astley Cooper still reflects the attitude of the majority of our profession, "Profound erudition is good for a man of means and practical knowledge for the physician and surgeon."