

ous mistakes which might, and probably otherwise would, be made by those in charge of the sick person, or by the sick person himself. The study of medicine, therefore is valuable, first for the cure of disease, second for the relief of suffering, third for the prolongation of life, and fourth for the management of such diseases as tend to get well of themselves.

All these are very well, and when any of us are sick we are glad to get an educated physician to tell us what to do and to help us get better, but they are, all put together, a small matter compared with the next factor in the value of the study of medicine which is to be mentioned, namely, the prevention of disease.

This is the field in which medicine has made its great practical conquests, and those that it has made in this field I firmly believe are trifling compared to those that await it in the near future. But consider for a moment what has been done already in this direction. Many of the most deadly diseases, such as the plague, cholera and smallpox, have been either entirely or almost entirely stamped out in civilized countries, and the avoidance of other diseases, such as typhoid fever, is surely, if somewhat slowly, following. By special means, such as vaccination, and by general sanitary measures, such as cleanliness, ventilation and drainage, not only these special diseases, but a large number of other ailments have been rendered less frequent and (when they do occur) less fatal. Again the sciences of anatomy and physiology are teaching us every day the folly, I might even say the sin, of certain highly injurious customs connected with dress, such especially as tight lacing; and I believe that common sense, in spite of fashion, is, as a result of scientific teaching, gradually permeating this department also; and perhaps our great grandchildren will enjoy the pleasure which is denied to us of seeing in our homes and about the streets the beautiful female form, as originally designed by the Creator, natural and graceful, undeformed by artificial appliances of any kind, the clothing so designed as to exhibit (not impiously attempting to improve) that supreme work of the Great Artist. When this day comes many diseases and weakness now common will be unknown. In the meantime, as a recent able writer has said, "while the dress of men is not in all respects what it should be, that of women is a disgrace to civilization."