

and female sex will effect a beneficial influence on the male, and that the prejudice which allows women to enter the profession of nursing and excludes them from the profession of medicine, cannot be too strongly censured, and its existence can only be explained by the force of habit. We find it is only a modern revival of what occurred in the middle ages when the obstetric art was almost entirely in the hands of women, and in the Universities of Salerno and Bologna in Italy, some eight hundred years ago, not only where women admitted as students in medicine, but they also held professorships.

You enter upon your career as practitioners at a time when almost revolutions are occurring in medical science; the last decade has probably witnessed greater discoveries and more solid advance in the development of new facts than any similar period in the history of medicine. The number of competent workers in every department is much larger than at any previous time, doubtless owing to the increasing numbers of those who perfect themselves at the great medical centres in Europe and elsewhere, in their special line of study, becoming imbued with the spirit of research from contact with the recognized leaders of medical thought. In consequence scarcely a week passes without the heralding of some new discovery, method or remedial agent.

Some are never heard of after their first publication, others are the fashion for a brief period and then discarded, while many become permanent and invaluable additions to the great store house of accumulated facts generally accepted. In no department are such advancements being made as in those where the modern perfected microscope is the implement used to clear away the brush which until a recent date has existed in its primeval density in several important branches of medical science.

Prominent among these are the developments being made as to the part taken by

microscopic organisms in the production of disease. The present army of explorers in this field have worked chiefly in the pathway of the great pioneers Ehrenberg, Schwann, Cohn, Henle, Pasteur, Koch, Lister and others. Pasteur's great work first flashes on the world, demonstrating that what up to his discoveries were regarded as ferments in the process of fermentations were simply the food of minute organisms, and alcohol, acetic, lactic, butyric acids, &c., the result of the digestion or chemical transformation by their growth and multiplication. The diseases of wine and beer he found also to be other micro-organisms and pointed out the remedy. Soon Pebrine, a disease of the silkworm was made to own to a similar origin and again the remedy suggested and the ruined silk industry of France restored.

Professor Koch and Pasteur's demonstrations in regard to the bacillus found in anthrax, discovered by Davaine in 1850, a disease which was decimating the herds and flocks of Europe, then followed.

A new era about this time dawned in regard to the treatment of infectious diseases. Pasteur by rendering less virulent the germs of fowl cholera and anthrax and by inoculating healthy animals with this attenuated virus, produced a mild form of the disease, which protected from a subsequent attack, just as vaccination protects from smallpox or the attack of an infectious disease usually protects from subsequent ones.

Pasteur's successful application of this principle in the treatment of hydrophobia is his last important accomplishment. Koch's discovery of the microbe of cholera and tuberculosis followed shortly after, and some one or another has claimed to have discovered the parasite of nearly the whole list of infectious diseases, the latest being the alleged discovery of the microbe of La grippe, but many of these have still to be verified.

All these organisms, which belong to the