

off the cold phlegm with lobelia and keep up the treatment with red pepper to cure your patient had gained many followers, and I know of at least two deaths caused by the lobelia.

Bleeding was resorted to on the slightest provocation, and there was scarcely a neighborhood that did not boast of a man who could open a vein with a dexterity that would shame the majority of the graduates of to-day, and the enormous bowls of the various infusions and decoctions that were poured down the patient would go far to convince the observer that, as in the case of New York's historian, they intended to drive out the enemy by inundating the seat of war. Some of their medicines were nauseous enough to have been derived from the pharmacopeia of the dark ages, the Chinese, or the homeopathsists. An infusion of the excrement of the sheep was commonly prescribed for measles and that of the cat—a bad substitute for *asafoetida*—was considered the sovereignest thing on earth for fits.

My father was the first in the neighborhood to treat diseases *secundum artem*, but in those days the principles of medicine as taught by Sydenham and Cullen had not become obsolete; and he never hesitated to use contrastimulants or the lancet in inflammations, in what was called inflammatory fever, or stheniocosis of disease with hyperaction where he considered that the patient's constitution would endure the treatment.

It was in this school that I learned the first rudiments of medicine, and in the first years of my practice I used the lancet with more or less freedom, and though the doctrine of Hughes Bennett and his followers has largely affected my practice I am by no means convinced that the disuse of the lancet has been an unmitigated blessing. As there were brave men before Agamemnon so there were skilful and successful physicians before we were thought of, or a bacterium discovered. It was

certainly a dangerous mode of treatment for the mere routinest, who bled, blistered and salivated each patient as a matter of course; but was a powerful weapon for good in the hands of the careful observing physician, who understood the course and effect of disease, and carefully and intelligently studied and watched those of his remedies. And while our modern treatment saves patients who would have died under the old regime, I am convinced that the vigorous treatment of our fathers saved many who would have been allowed to die under the expectant treatment so fashionable a few years ago.

Diphtheria reached us before railways had opened up the country, and I repeatedly saw it on isolated farms surrounded by woods and where it could not possibly have been carried from without, and where the land had been so recently redeemed from the forest that it could not have been derived from some previous but forgotten case. This has seemed to me to prove that the origin of the Klebs Loeffler bacillus requires further investigation. We also had cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, and I was much interested in a paper read by Dr. (now Sir James) Grant at the first meeting which I attended of this Association, in I think the year '69. It was on cerebro-spinal meningitis, or as he termed it "Purpurio fever," as it appeared in the Ottawa Valley. It had appeared with us at the same time and changing the locality and names his paper would have fairly described my cases and their results.

The country became rapidly and thoroughly cleared and drained, and it is so completely rid us of the cause of miasmatic disease, that I have scarcely seen a case of ague in twenty or twenty-five years, nor a case of old fashioned remittent in my own practice of some forty years, and it is so long since we have had a case of murrain among our cattle that it has ceased to