

will doubt the existence of individual susceptibility or immunity; why should an exception be made in plant pathology? The mortality amongst infants is recognised to be only a question of nourishment. A child reared properly, will certainly have more resistive power in itself than a child reared carelessly. The greatest stress is laid in medicine upon the origin of disease, so we find an interesting note in the "Address in Medicine," delivered at the 73rd annual meeting of the British Medical Association, by Henry Maudsley, M.D., F.R.C.P. ("British Medical Journal," July 29, 1905, p. 227): "Looking out on the present state and prospect of medicine, it is obvious that its future work will be mainly to prevent and stop the beginnings of disease" "by all fit measures and precautions to defend it from those attacks that come from without, whether in gross form or as invisible microbes." And: " The second aim of preventive treatment—thrown into the background by the eager quest of the microbe—is to obviate the predisposition or tendencies to disease which lie within the organism."

That raises the question—where does disease begin? A patient with measles, during the time of incubation, rarely shows the slightest symptom of that disease. Certainly the disease does not begin with the recognition of its symptoms. Many instances in medical science prove this as a fact. When one is able to recognise the symptoms of the disease, one has not by a long way found its origin.

But how do phytopathologists deal with a plant disease? Are not often quite secondary fungi blamed as having caused the disease? No fungus or bacterium can be detected, though the plant is plainly diseased. In that case suspicion arises as to the cause of such disease, in which no irritant is detected. Of course annual plants die off, after their seeds have ripened, but this may fairly be regarded rather as a natural process of passing into a new cycle, than as a true death; the old former type of plant survives in the seed and will spring forth again. On the other hand plants rarely die from exhaustion or old age. Always definite conditions, I must maintain, are responsible for the death of any organic being. These conditions in plant life may be of various kinds. Conditions of weather and culture, superabundance or deficiency of water, air, light, chemical constituents in the soil, etc., etc.; all these factors have been known to end the life of plants. Though the conditions are probably natural, they can be injurious. Consequently the phytopathologist must direct his greatest attention to the injurious factors in plant life. Clearly opposed to this theory