

suffer from the specific infections or not; for if we abolish the strepto- and staphylo-cocci from the ordinary infectious diseases, we shall practically abolish the diseases themselves—that is we shall leave them so mild as to be almost negligible.

SUMMARY.

1. Although we should hold as our ultimate aim the abolition of the specific infectious diseases, it is well to remember that the chief harm that they do is due to strepto- and staphylo-cocci as secondary infections.

2. As a life-saving proposition, the abolition of strepto- and staphylo-cocci deserves more strenuous attention than the abolition of even the tubercle bacillus—ranking in this with the abolition of syphilis and gonorrhea.

3. The mildness of modern infectious diseases is due to the lessened virulence, smaller stock, and reduced distribution of the strepto- and staphylo-cocci formerly bred in our hospitals; and is to be ascribed to Lord Lister, who, however, probably did not foresee this development.

4. Public health men should campaign for medical asepsis as the surgeons did formerly for surgical asepsis; and not only in contagious hospitals, handling the specific infections, but also wherever septic cases are cared for. Indeed, we should probably gain immensely if all septic cases were isolated, as smallpox, etc., are now.