

antemundane ways that may be conjured from the outmost bosom of the earth, in order to throw a bright light upon development of medicine. Such men can have no other motive than human welfare. And when they read the works of great men who existed in all generations, whose carcases have long decayed, but their heroic names still live, then they are kindled with high aspirations and are anxious to become heroes in the conquest of nature. Thorough education make men gentlemen by habit, by custom, by civilization, by law, and by dress. From the history of the infancy of our race unto the present day, developments of trades and arts are emerged from their primitive state to a perfection, by those who devoted their attention to one kind of skill, and made life almost double its value.

"Those stupendous facts in which the whole spirit of the nineteenth century moves, is due to a higher grade of education. In this age of multi-farious learning, in which the whole spirit of humanity powerfully and wonderfully moves, cannot, as formerly, be overshadowed by ignorance and superstition. Thorough education will dissipate the darkness of empiricism and disloyalty to humanity. The inventions of surgical instruments is the wonder of this generation. Every day we hear of some new design that harnesses a new force, and assists in means of curing disease. The most useful of all of them are the different scopic inventions, and by their aid physicians are enabled to make correct diagnosis which leads to a rational treatment of disease of more obscure cavities. To the scopic appliances we are greatly indebted for the development of specialties in the practice of medicine, and yet has it not developed charlatans and empiricism? Has not the vaginal speculum been the cause of producing so great an army of gynecologists, that 99 per cent. of the young men who graduate in their schools, regardless of their pathy, immediately equip themselves with a chair and a speculum? Has not the rectal-speculum encouraged the so-called pile doctors? And has not the rhinoscope been the means of producing thousands of traveling catarrh specialists, who pretend to see more with their appliances than the ordinary intelligent physician?

"The doctor's optics must be keen,
Who sees what is not to be seen."

HOT AIR INHALATIONS IN PHTHISIS.—Two German observers, or, to speak more correctly, two observers in Germany, have, independently of one another, been engaged in investigations on the bactericidal property of heated dry air, and on the methods of utilizing this property for the practical treatment of phthisical patients. Dr. Weigert, who appears to be an American living in Berlin, finding that tubercle bacilli outside the body die

at a temperature of 41° C., and are adversely affected by one of 38°, had constructed an apparatus for the inhalation of heated air, and commenced to make trials on phthisical patients in the early stage recommended to him by other medical men, he himself not being in practice. At first a temperature of from 40° to 60° C. was employed, the air for inhalation being quite dry. This temperature was gradually raised as high as 80° C. The patients bore this hot dry air exceedingly well, and continued to inhale it for three or four hours a day during a month, the only unpleasant effects produced being hyperæmia and dryness of the mucous membrane. The general effects are represented as having been remarkable, patients who had been falling away picking up strength and becoming quite robust, the physical examination showing at the same time that the dulness and râles had perceptibly decreased. The bacilli in the sputum, which had been very numerous, rapidly diminished in number, and finally disappeared altogether. These observations were confirmed by several other medical men. Dr. Halter, of Lengerich, Westphalia, seems to have gone even further than Dr. Weigert, he having himself inhaled, and caused patients also to inhale, dry air heated to 190° C., with satisfactory results.—*Lancet*.

PREVENTIVE SURGERY, AS ILLUSTRATED IN KNOCK KNEE AND FLAT-FOOT.—Mr. Ellis (*Brit. Med. Jour.*) maintains that treatment of these deformities based upon strengthening of the muscular support is highly satisfactory. If it is admitted that failure of muscular support leads to yielding of ligaments and altered bony surfaces in joints, it appears that vigorous use of the muscles will make them strong and taut; that in this condition they relax and thus renew the overstretched ligaments, and also, by exerting constant pressure, remodel the altered contours of the bony surfaces of the joints. The mechanical law he states thus: According to the parallelogram of forces, a well-known law, if a force acting in the line from the knee toward the hip be opposed by a force acting in the line from the knee toward the foot, in a case of knock-knee, the resultant will be the diagonal of the completed parallelogram, or a tendency toward bow-legs. But all the muscles attached to the leg bones below and to the pelvis above do act in the line from the knee to the hip, while the weight of the body acts from the knee toward the foot, so these muscles draw the knee toward a straight line between the foot and the pelvis, when, as in the erect position, the foot is a fixed point. This action should be utilized in correcting knock-knee. This explains also the spontaneous recoveries which do occasionally occur, and the fact that muscular exercise will remove the deformity.

For flat-foot he maintains "for prevention pro-