

he owed his recovery. He has again made excellent progress, but not until he was confined to bed.

What better illustration of the necessity of being fully cognizant of the variable course of a disease can be cited than typhoid fever? What a multitude of drugs and methods of treatment have been tried and vaunted for a time as curative, only in the end to be cast aside as worthless! In the earliest years of my practice I came to the conclusion that a combination of iodine and carbolic acid formed a specific, as all the goodly number of patients I treated did well, but I soon received a rude awakening. A season followed in which the type of the disease was severe, and eight patients were carried out of a hospital ward of 20 beds in one month and laid away in narrower beds, which require no renewing. The undying efforts and eternal vigilance of the profession in the endeavour to discover a panacea for this fell disease, which flourishes because of the general ignorance and apathy of the public, is most laudable; yet were the true nature of the disease and the great variation in its course from year to year fully realized, to what a multitude of foolish methods and useless drugs would we be spared giving consideration!

In no disease is a correct knowledge of the natural course of events of greater importance than in those of the heart. It is said of the late Austin Flint that early in his career he was called to a distant town to see a young girl suffering from grave heart disease, in whom the symptoms were very marked. He gave a very unfavourable prognosis, and advised that the child be fed lightly, kept very quiet, and not allowed any physical exertion or mental excitement. After his departure the parents, in discussing the matter, argued that if the child could not in any event live long, there could be little to gain by restricting her liberties, and that therefore it would be better to let her have as full and happy a life as possible, even if shorter, than a somewhat longer one of a more sombre, restricted character. They wisely, therefore, allowed her complete freedom. About 20 years later Flint was asked to see another child in the same town, whose mother proved to be the little girl, now grown to womanhood, whom he had condemned to a short existence so many years before. She was now the happy mother of several children.

Flint learned what is now well known, that children, if they recover from the acute affection of the heart, may and often do live many years, even to old age, in comfort and without impairment of their usefulness. On the contrary, if the cardiac