

should be our endeavour to effect cures as speedily as possible, thereby preventing the recurrence of the disease. The ordinary mode of prescribing is, to say the least, slovenly, and it fully accounts for the very incomplete results that are obtained. If it be urged that I ought to produce evidence of the truth of what has just been stated, I can only point to my own experiences in this connection, and assure you that nine out of every ten cases in which my opinion has been solicited have been cast off or rejected ones, so to speak. I mean that they have been cases where the patients have long previously undergone treatment, experiencing only partial relief.

As observed in one of my former lectures delivered at this hospital, some persons think it fair and honest to record all cases as successful where the body of the parasite is eliminated from the bearer. Thus one practitioner, desirous of extolling the merits of turpentine, had the politeness to inform me that this drug, with its appropriate aperient combination, "never failed to bring away the worm where it had been known to have been present." This statement was based on experiences obtained by the treatment of thirty or forty dispensary cases. The inadequacy, however, of conclusions drawn from such a source must, I think, be obvious, for in no single instance does it appear that the head of the parasite was obtained, or even that it was so much as sought for by the medical attendant. On grounds, therefore, of this order, I maintain that it is unfair to speak of such cases as cures, and it is, further, an entire mistake to characterise the results thus obtained as successful.

Undoubtedly, now and then, cures have been effected without finding, or without any endeavour on the part of the practitioner to find, the head of the parasite; but I hold that no medical man is entitled to pronounce his patient as absolutely cured, unless he has dislodged and produced the head from the matters discharged, after and in consequence of the advice and remedies offered and administered. It