

In surgery greater progress has been made than in any other department of our art and science. Wounds in 1800 were supposed to require inflammation to produce union. *Pus bonum et laudabile* accompanied benign forms of inflammation and indicated that all was going regularly. As they had no anæsthetics, they resorted to the use of infusions of tobacco taken internally to place their patients in the condition of the sea-sick passenger, who is so prostrate that he cares not what operation is performed so long as the end comes quickly. Too surely indeed did death follow the use of the knife, for those who survived the shock had to run the gauntlet of that list of wound infections which has now been almost banished by antiseptics. The appreciation of surgical cleanliness, as taught by Lord Lister and his followers, has enabled the surgeon to widen the field of his labours so that scarcely any part of the human body has, during the past twenty years, escaped the use of the knife. I have not heard of anyone removing the pineal gland, and possibly this holds the proud position of being the only unassailable organ. But I warn it not to be too elated or some surgeon will snatch world-wide fame by removing it. The safety with which major operations can be performed, the slight amount of pain which follows, and the rapidity with which the wounds heal, make the practice of this branch of medicine an attractive and alluring occupation. It is unnecessary for me to enter into a detailed account of the newer operations now performed, the change has been too recent and too striking to have escaped the notice of every practitioner.

Anæsthetics and antiseptics have played a benevolent rôle, not only in surgery, but also in obstetrics. The expectant mother can await her approaching confinement without dread of agonizing pain, as the modern accoucheur will control with chloroform the most violent suffering. Puerperal fever has been largely suppressed by our recently acquired knowledge of its causes and the application of the necessary means of prevention. Deaths from the sequelæ of childbirth have been greatly reduced during the last quarter of a century.

What has the future in store for us? I will not attempt to prophesy, as my qualifications are not well attested. We all know that there are large questions yet to be settled, and therefore the need for patient and persevering investigation is still paramount. Bacteriology and hæmatology are in their infancy, but have been so illuminating in their short development that we expect a flood of light yet to come from these sources. No one can sit down complacently and feel that the summit has been reached; rather should each of us resolve to work more faithfully in order in even a humble capacity to add to the sum of knowledge in our chosen profession. Cannot some one grasp the kernel of