

exact knowledge of the causes and nature of disease has come, perforce, from the studies which have led to it, more faith in the native powers of the human body and in the value of the aid which can be given by nursing, dieting, etc. Perhaps this is why one who is the peer of any in the science of medicine should stay his hand when he comes to the art thereof and tell us that "the advanced school of the present values a few well-tried medicines and certain of quality and action as highly as ever; and, again, the modern treatment of disease relies very greatly on the old so-called 'natural' methods, diet and exercise, bathing and massage." It would seem, therefore, that practical medicine in so far as drugs are used has not quite kept pace with the knowledge of the causes and processes of disease. *Per contra*, serums are drugs, and one of them alone, the diphtheria antitoxin, has wrought a magic not seen since the days of the Great Healer himself. But to get the best results later studies have shown the importance of early resort to it, for it is only the free toxins that can be reached. It is now found also that much larger doses should be used; they are much more effective and are innocuous, and not age but severity should regulate the dose.

That pneumonia is always a septicemia and its specific microbe always present in the blood, gives the clue to its prevalence and high mortality, greater indeed than of yore, doubtless owing to the large and increasing percentage of dwellers in cities and towns. A protective and curative serum or "vaccine," as in the case of diphtheria or typhoid, is the hoped-for remedy. The discovery of a specific microbe in cerebro-spinal meningitis, which now and again becomes epidemic and creates havoc, and of the mode of entrance of the infection by the nose and throat, and of the trial of repeated lumbar punctures and injections of diphtheria antitoxin, with uncertain results, are features of interest in this serious malady, which, by the way, is not at all as fatal as some suppose. The occurrence of two great wars recently has given added interest to the study of the causes and course of treatment of the various diseases, especially typhoid fever, which have prevailed amongst troops in former campaigns. In the Spanish war typhoid became epidemic in camps in both Northern and Southern States. "Infected water was not an important factor in the spread of typhoid fever in the national encampments of 1898," and, again, flies were unquestionably carriers of infection—a fact of primary importance owing to some features of camp-life.