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POPULAR MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE, a universal knowledge of the value and means of preventive medicine as now rapidly developing, will alone, while nothing else will,

“Earn salvation for the sons of men.”

If every man and woman were now in possession of a full knowledge of the science of preventive medicine (the true medicine of the near future) does any one doubt that it would be a most valuable thing, a thing of inestimable value to the human race? Surely the more of such knowledge everybody possesses the better for everybody. A little knowledge is a “dangerous thing” only to the imprudent, who do not know how to use it. Leading medical journals cry out that the great want of the day is “the education of the public in the rules of health.” It is true, medical men themselves suffer from disease and die prematurely as well as do other people. But nine out of ten medical men will readily admit that they do not put their knowledge into practice in their own individual cases. Besides, hardly any of the medical schools yet teach even the value of preventive medicine; the younger physicians learn it after years of practice,—learn it from costly experience and from the sayings, in their medical journals, of a Jenner or a Wilks or an Abbott.

SIR WILLIAM JENNER says, let us note that, “To prevent disease is the most important aim of the science and art of medicine.” Dr. Samuel Wilks, F.R.S., &c., at Guy’s Hospital has said, “The idea of cure is low born and commonplace, and lies at the bottom of all quack systems.” Dr. Clifford Allbutt, M.A., F.R.S., &c., at a recent meeting of a medical society (Lancet, Nov. 14), after dwelling at much length on the value, both to the profession and the public, of preventive *versus* curative medicine, said “He would not be too Utopian, would not fix his eyes on too remote a prospect, but would soberly anticipate the time—not, perhaps, very far before us—when (saying nothing of the stamping out of epidemics, a comparatively easy matter) it would be a rare and unreasonable thing for a man of average constitutional value to drift into granular kidney disease, into cardio-arterial degeneration, into insanity, into chronic gout or gravel, into diabetes, into phthisis, or into any other twisted or defective state of function, without the means of having his morbid tendencies explained in their initial stages and, as far as practicable, counteracted. This,” he said, “is the future of medicine, and this is preventive medicine.”

AND SO, as Dr. Rockwell (in N. Y. Medical Journal) says, “Every sensible and observing physician, the longer he lives, must become more and more convinced that the cause and cure of the majority of the ailments that afflict humanity depend very much upon food and drink and habits of exercise. No saying is more trite than that men and women take too much medicine. They take many times too much, and too often the diseases and symptoms of disease for which relief is sought by this indiscriminate dosing are stimulated into increased activity.” But as yet, for a medical practitioner to dismiss a patient (with few exceptions) with good counsel and instruction, and without a bottle of medicine or a prescription for one, would be as much as his professional life were worth. But, as Dr. A’butt puts it, when the public has once grasped the great truth that preventive medicine must occupy the ground hitherto given up to mere sorcery or the occasional patching of curative medicine, and has become convinced that