

demonstrated, the administration of Quinine in this disease is no longer empirical but is a good example of rational treatment. So no doubt will it be with other drugs now used empirically as our knowledge increases.

Unfortunately however, there are many diseases that we are required to treat, the cause and nature of which we do not as yet thoroughly understand, and there are others, *e.g.*, tuberculosis, the etiology of which is understood but for which the pharmacologist has not as yet provided a remedy that has the power either of destroying the germ or of neutralizing the toxine produced by it. What shall we do in such cases when called upon to select our drug? We must do as we have done in the past. Control the effects, *i.e.*, the symptoms. This as might be expected will not be as satisfactory nor as successful a mode of treatment as is that where we are able to exhibit a drug which has the power of destroying the known cause of a disease. It is the best we can as yet do, and we must look to the bacteriologist and the pathologist to point out for us the nature of the disease and the cause thereof, and then we must ask the physiologist and the pharmacologist to find for us a drug which will destroy the germ or neutralize its toxine. The success of these co-workers with us in our fight for humanity against the inroads of disease and death in the past gives us good reason to hope that they will yet materially increase our knowledge of the causes and nature of diseases of which we are as yet ignorant, and provide us with remedies which will have the power of destroying the causes of these diseases, or at least of counteracting the deleterious effects of these causes. All credit to them for what they have accomplished in the past, and may success attend their efforts in the future.

I have said that many drugs are wrongfully used and that some are administered with positive injury to our patients. I will not presume to deal with all such drugs. A few samples must suffice.

*Laxatives and purges.* I believe that no class of drugs are more abused or more frequently administered with injury to the patient than are laxatives and purgatives. A patient's bowels