

wadding maintained by a roller bandage. Results were simply marvellous: rapid and complete cure, with hardly any suppuration.

Lister, believing that the vapors of carbolic acid were incompatible with the existence of germs, which are paralysed, destroyed by this agent, would not hereafter operate unless in a mist saturated with these vapors. This conception, although recognized to-day as erroneous in its application, had nevertheless for a result the disinfection of the instruments and the hands of the operator.

It was the discovery of antiseptism which had in science such a resounding, and which confirmed the exactness and accuracy of the germ theory. We heard everywhere of nothing else but antiseptic dressings, and owing to this new method, major, as well as minor operations succeeded to everyone's wish and great surgical traumatism became a play, where formerly surgeons hardly dared use their knives even to open an abscess. It is owing to this method that surgeons have to-day lost this extreme fear they formerly had of dealing with joint diseases. A few years ago, it was an axiom in surgery that the opening of the knee-joint had for corollary the amputation of the thigh, and often the death of the patient. Complication of wounds have disappeared with antiseptic dressings; erysipelas, lymphangitis, septicemia pyohemia, all known to-day as being produced by certain microbes, shall have hereafter but an historical interest. It is again antisepsy which explains the boldness and the success of operations in abdominal surgery. Without it, surgeons would not lay such rash hands on peritoneum, liver, stomach, intestines, bladder, ovaries, and uterus. We appeal also, at last, to the memory of ancient accoucheurs to proclaim the marvels realized in obstetrics by antisepsy. Microbic doctrines are certainly not accepted without contention, but whether the germ theory is rejected or not, it is nevertheless indisputable that the immense progress accomplished within the last twenty years in the treatment of wounds, is the consequence of the doctrines actually admitted upon the origin and nature of septic complications. Even if they had no other effect than to impose upon all scrupulous cleanliness, the result is enormous. Owing, in fact to antisepsy or asepsy, we obtain rapid cure and considerable lowering of mortality, although we operate to-day a great deal more than formerly. Medicine as well as surgery was not slow either

to derive benefit from the discoveries realized in bacteriology. Microbic doctrine has had the result of introducing into the study and treatment of diseases, the notice of etiology. Not long ago, the effects of diseases constituted the most special object of our attention; to-day it is pathogeny which guides the clinician and the therapist. Germ theory is, amongst all others, the only one which is not compelled to resort to these vague expressions which ancient medicine was satisfied with, in order to explain contagion of diseases. All those denominations, such as miasma, virus, etc., we were using less than twenty years ago, to design that something unknown which constituted the agent of contagion could not be defined without our having recourse to a catalytic action which had no other utility than to further remove the solution of the problem and to substitute an unknown for another unknown.

Bouley's axiom that every infectious disease is a function of microbes is becoming more and more confirmed; every day brings us the discovery of a new pathogenic microbe.

We are not satisfied with discovering microbes, but we study their biology, we are learning how to modify their function and consequently their virulence.

Pasteur's merit, in fact, does not lie so much in the discovery of the living nature of contagion of diseases, as in the processes he has been making use of in the culture of their virulent principle and in the means he employed to attenuate their noxious properties.

Is it necessary, gentlemen, that I should here remind you of the brilliant results achieved by this immortal genius, with regard to the preventive treatment of anthrax in animals? The vaccine against that plague is to-day forwarded to the whole world and has already saved numerous flocks from an almost certain destruction. It has given such results that we can estimate to several millions the economy realized for the benefit of agriculture. Industry and commerce have therefrom derived such great profits, that France thought it her duty to award that illustrious man a national recompense and to place him at the highest rank amongst the benefactors of his country and of the whole world.

But far more important, are for us, the results obtained by the first application to man of Pasteur-