

have hydrophobia, horses lock-jaw, and we remember that human is different from bovine tuberculosis. The discovery that Texan cattle-fever was transmitted by an intermediate carrier, a tick, gave the cue to similar processes in many human diseases; mosquitoes transmit malaria, filariasis and dengue; lice carry relapsing fever, typhus and trench fever. A study of the malarin of birds explained the life history of the parasites of human malaria. Attempts to cure the trypanosomiasis of animals showed the way to our modern treatment of syphilis.

As a rule, a practitioner in the tropics knows more of the cause, process, prevention and cure of the diseases with which he deals than does his confrère who works in a Canadian hospital. The directness of the indications for specific action, and the inevitable promptness with which the proper action is followed by the expected result, make those who are accustomed to deal with tropical diseases impatient of unexplaining empiricism and determined in refusing to be blind to unsatisfactory practice even though it be established by custom.

The destruction of mosquitoes, and the consequent prevention of mosquito-borne diseases, such as yellow fever and malaria; treatment by arseno-benzol which destroys the spirochætes of relapsing fever, syphilis and other diseases of similar causation; the exhibition of ipecac and the alleviation of amœbic dysentery; these are all instances of efficient, direct and specific action that are not easily paralleled in the everyday control of those diseases which are not usually known as tropical. Practice in a field where right methods achieve specific success makes a demonstrated diagnosis necessitous and always sought. The microscope is the basis of a doctor's work in the tropics; he sees the cause of his patient's disease before he attempts to cure it. For him, the days of "therapeutic tests" and "clinical syndromes" are fast passing; he is accustomed to direct methods.

During the war, a knowledge of tropical diseases helped to a recognition of the part played by lice in the transmission of trench fever and to a search for the animal host—the—"reservoir"—of the spirochætes causing Weil's disease and seven-day fever; the spirochætes causing these diseases are found in the kidneys and urine of, respectively, rats and mice. In western North America and elsewhere, ticks sometimes cause fatal paralysis in children; had the transmission of disease by "insects" been a familiar idea to those who practised in these places, the nature of the disease would not have remained so long unrecognized.