

awful conditions, substances and distortions of therapy, that most of us may in a moment of weakness (or strength, who knows) be tempted to introduce into the system of an unknowing and unsuspecting mass of humanity. I have been speaking so far around my subject, but intend (if you are sufficiently long suffering to allow me) to speak of some new forms of drugs, doses or substances, alterative, tonic or recuperative, as their function and use may appeal to the individual user. That many such or allied substances have been used, nay, were extensively used, and probably became fads, may be found in writings which have become classical and historical. To one thinking how much the present century has added in scientific research and knowledge, and how much, too, it has taken away from the attic or lumber room of a doctor's arma-mentorum, it appears almost strange that the earth is inhabited; so much in previous ages had they that we have not, and so much, on the contrary, do we consider indispensable that they had not. That it has not been so much with the aid or the skill of the physicians of the various periods of time (and, for the sake of the memory of our forefathers, many times removed, I would not like to say in spite of them) seems a fact. Still, leaving out the fact that the advance of high-tension civilization has brought many peculiar pathological conditions that were perhaps unknown in past centuries, previous to this microscopic age, with its advance in scientific knowledge, there lived a people obeying nature's fundamental laws, living largely in the open air, and living on proper food and thus very near to a natural state, who, in spite of their scientific ignorance and want of fear of germs, spores and bacilli, and therefore oblivious of the various toxins and organic products, lived to a good old age, or died a violent death, which they so often sought. This age, if it might be called one, was a period of sufficient length to make a record into which the present age of scientific medicine is again entering after such an interval, and after such an uplifting as we can appreciate to-day. I should be almost tempted to call this an era of organic compounds. I say *an* era because certain organic compounds or substances, and perhaps all, or even more than we have at our disposal to-day, were freely used before. Just think for a moment; we can reach that exalted therapeutic condition of bygone years, when the husband's urine was considered a specific for the vomiting of pregnancy. Only to-day we would be more dainty, and probably introduce it by the hypodermatic route probably as urate of something. I am not sure that it is any worse than some of the many other substances that are daily produced for our trial and credulity.

Is it not a wave of superstition that is making us cling to such substances as testiculine and ovarine, and many others? Is it the rapid advance in the study of bacteriology that makes us demand a new remedy or antitoxin for every new or strange germ, spore or bacillus found wandering across some microscopic field; or is it the reverse, that a new germ being found it must be fitted to a condition of the body which the scientific world say belongs to it or forms it; or, most likely still, that the germ is the one and only cause for