

when thoroughly comprehended will appeal to government and people alike, and compel that support which even no higher motives than self preservation prompt. Over and over again it has been demonstrated and proven that the increase of medical knowledge is an asset of value to the community in which it has occurred. Let us stop for a moment to survey some of the branches of our work which more intimately touch the masses of people. I do not propose or claim to be able to present a perfect and complete portrait of the marvellous progress of our craft, but even the dullest can see some rays of light in the picture which must appeal to them very strongly. No more than half a century ago the unfortunate and over-worked, suffering from that direst of all afflictions the loss of reason, was separated, not only by his own but by the mental darkness of his day; and restraint, confinement, torture, chains and fetters, the straight-jacket, terrorization, manacles and excommunication was the treatment of the insane. As his violence increased these were intensified. Once within the door of an asylum his doom was sealed, his life among the damned. But fifty years of progress and advancement have abolished all this, and to-day the bond and the straight-jacket are things of the past, whilst sunshine, comparative happiness, home comforts, the development of restful surroundings, proper nourishment, freedom from care, and the supplying of well regulated pleasure has become the lot of this class of sufferers. This same line is developing still further, and though even to-day the horrors of the past attached to the idea of an asylum for the insane, may still prevail in remote regions, the very word is being expunged from the language of our nation, and replaced with the pathos and the meaning of home, and the conditions created necessary not only to cure, but to prevent the more distressing manifestations, and to eliminate the odium which attaches to the very name of the only institution where the mentally unsound can reasonably hope for shelter. Again, when we turn to the department of surgery, and survey even superficially the marvellous progress and attainments of this department of our art, when we stand in horror before the pictures of the suffering, torture, and agonies endured prior to the time of Sir James Y. Simpson; when we read in our literature of the hemorrhage from the amputated stump being checked by the application of melting tar and red-hot iron; when we endeavor to enumerate those regions of our body which were forbidden the surgeon because of the writhings unavoidable in the absence of anesthesia; when we see to-day