

so easy to determine. The frequency of the occurrence of the growth in certain situations seems to point to mechanical irritation as the cause. Then, again, there are some observers who claim to have discovered cancer-bodies, minute parasites, in the cancer-cells. It seems almost as if the surgeons were getting tired of using the knife on cancers. There is a certain amount of sameness about the operation, and perhaps the only feature that lends interest to the case is the element of uncertainty as to whether or not the cancer has been entirely removed. Attempts have been made to check the growth of cancer by the injection of methyl blue into its substance, in the hope of fixing (in two senses) the protoplasm of the cell, and thus preventing cell-multiplication. This method is still on trial. Some are making the experiment of treating malignant tumors with the mixed toxins of certain bacteria. This method was suggested by the beneficial effect which an accidental attack of erysipelas had upon some tumors. There have been some good results obtained, but not sufficient to warrant the hope of much benefit from this mode of treatment. If some bacteriologist can succeed in discovering the cancer-germ, if such there be, and also succeed in preparing the antitoxin, then the disease can be treated rationally as in diphtheria and tetanus.

Just to show how successful the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria is let me refer you to the results obtained in Paris. Up to as late a date as 1893, the average number of deaths from this disease during September alone was twenty. During the first thirty-five weeks of this year no deaths occurred from diphtheria except in the case of two patients who had been brought in from the country, and in whom the disease was far advanced. Results such as these lead us to look for great things to be accomplished in the treatment of other diseases.

There is a disease which is the most common, the most fatal, and therefore the most dreadful of all—a disease which slays its tens of thousands, but with which we are so familiar that we do not realize its destructiveness. Tuberculosis, or, as it is commonly called, consumption, is no respecter of persons. It attacks rich and poor, learned and unlearned. Physicians have not been able to hold out much encouragement when consulted by patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. The rich man is perhaps recommended to try a change of climate, but the poorer man stays at home to die. Some have said that the law of “survival of the fittest” comes into play here, that consumption weeds out the degenerates and incapables. But this is not true. The law of survival of the fittest has no soul. Some of the best and brightest men and women have their lives cut short by this dread disease. While speaking of tuberculosis, perhaps you will allow me to refer to the most recent developments in its treatment. In commencing this address I stated that I did not intend to

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