

near to some of us, who has long been reputed to possess the miraculous gift of "*going through people*" while in a state of sleep or trance, never forgetting, I believe, that part of the individual in which his pulse is most commonly found. The gentleman to whom I refer entered into a very elaborate account of the manner in which this remarkable person diagnosed his case. He told all about the body, he said, from the crown of the head to the soles of the feet, describing with marvellous accuracy the seat of disease, and the nature of it. While admitting that he had received no benefit whatever from the course of treatment to which he had been submitted, this gentleman expressed himself as very much impressed with the gift with which his newly-found doctor appeared to be endowed. The history of this notorious charlatan's success in trading upon public credulity is at once an illustration of how little success is necessary in our profession, and how easily the great mass of the people can be persuaded to accept imposture instead of science.

We often hear it remarked that the various forms of malignant disease are greatly on the increase. This may or may not be true. From my own observation I am unable to offer any positive opinion, although I am disposed to question the statement. Without doubt, there is very much more in this country than there was twenty-five years ago; but whether or not the proportion of malignant diseases to the entire population is any greater now than it was fifty years ago is a question upon which my reading or observation has led me to feel at least some degree of doubt. If the advance of medical science is accomplishing anything, it ought to be at least putting the profession in possession of those expedients by which the susceptibility to all forms of disease will be gradually diminished. My own impression is that, although once existent, the disease is no more amenable to treatment than it ever was professional knowledge of the various sanitary measures tending to lessen constitutional susceptibility has advanced very perceptibly; and that the time may yet come when to those who scrupulously follow the instructions which may be imparted, all forms of disease will be

stripped of much of the terror which they now inspire. We know, for example, or at least those who believe in the value of vaccination think they know, that this expedient has rendered one of the most loathsome and pestiferous diseases largely, if not entirely, controllable. I very much doubt if a scrupulous observance of the necessity of vaccination and its careful and effective performance would not effectually stamp out small-pox in one or two generations. We know also that an acquaintance with the sources by which contagious and infectious diseases are created and propagated has had the effect of lessening the number, as well as the virulence of epidemics. The various types of malarious disease for example, as well as those arising out of specific poisons, have had fewer outbreaks during the last twenty-five years than formerly, and the virulence of these outbreaks has been materially lessened. May we not reasonably hope that, as our knowledge of prophylactics and sanitary matters becomes more systematic and scientific, we may be able to control some diseases that now sorely perplex the profession and impair our usefulness? I am somewhat hopeful that an era in medical research may be dawning upon us that will greatly aid in lightening our burdens, and in the course of time, lessen the necessity for such a class of community as physicians and surgeons—a consummation, in the opinion of some, very devoutly to be desired.

I have been struck, in my experience with malignant disease, with the frequency with which what proved to be well-marked cases have been masked by the prominent symptoms of other forms of disease. In two cases of cancer of the kidney—the one scirrhus and the other encephaloid—that came under my own observation, this fact was strikingly illustrated in the early stages of the disease. With your permission, I will give the histories of these two cases:

Mr. M— first consulted me about the month of June, 1873. Careful inquiry into all his symptoms, previous history, &c., seemed to me to point conclusively to renal calculus as the source of trouble. The patient was a robust, well-developed man of about fifty years of age. His complaint was pain in the back over the