

covery of vaccination at the beginning of the last century has been almost equalled by the discovery of antitoxin for diphtheria in its closing years; as to tuberculosis, although the bacillus which is looked upon as its cause has been successfully isolated and recognized we are still without an antitoxin for it. Cancer and other forms of malignant disease from year to year cause much suffering to the human race and claim many victims. From the vast amount of profound study devoted to these diseases I am sanguine enough to hope that the dawn is not far distant of that grand and glorious day when we can say to the world that tuberculosis and cancer can both be cured. Is it a dream?—not more than it would have been twenty years ago to say that a cretin could be cured. Anything more absolutely hopeless than the state of the unfortunate cretin till the use of thyroid extract was discovered could not be. Then let us hope that soon a great discovery will enable us to deal with cancer and tuberculosis with the same success that has crowned the use of thyroid extract.

In *Materia Medica* the new century opens with wonderful surprises. The improvements and changes follow each other so rapidly as almost to make one's head dizzy. If the pharmacists continue to pour out upon our innocent profession new drugs with impossible names as they have been doing in the past few years it will be a sad time for the future students of medicine. The old pharmacopœia groaned with the load of useless drugs, but the pharmacopœia of this century must be immensely larger in case even a few of these drugs win their way into medical confidence. Try, if you please, to imagine what the gifted Abernethy would say if recalled to human existence and you named over to him some of the newer drugs, for example, stypticin, dionin, largin, hydrozone, mercuriol, cuprol, uargol, ferrinol, anusol, etc.

Whilst I cheerfully give great credit for the elegant preparations manufactured by the pharmacists of the present day I cannot but believe that some large manufacturing firms on both sides of the Atlantic, but chiefly on this side, are doing very great injury to the medical profession by putting up elegant preparations either as pills or mixtures according to certain formulæ. For example, a pill for a cardiac tonic, a pill for neuralgia, for malaria, etc. These preparations are on sale at every drug store and I think the medical man is the wiser who writes his own prescription, however simple it may be, instead of making use of any of these combinations. No medical man should allow any one to think for him as to what his patient needs, nor should he permit any manufacturing druggist to use him as a sort of advertising agent for his products. In many parts of this Province the literature and drugs sent out to medical men by large manufacturing concerns have become an intolerable nuisance.

Our noble profession, which gives its all to the relief of suffering