

of that time were just as honest, just as sincere, and believed as much as we do to-day that they were doing the best that could be done for their patients. Many of them would argue that they could prevent the extension of pneumonia from one lobe to the other by poulticing if they saw the patient early enough.

In reference to infectious diseases, we were not so particular about isolating the patients except in cases of erysipelas and smallpox. Speaking of erysipelas, I have known the surgeons to put off an operation for weeks if it were possible to let the erysipelas get well. We did not take any extra precautions to disinfect the room or take any other precautions further than to remove the bedding. Fifty per cent. after surgical operations died of sepsis, which was due to the unsanitary condition of the hospital. I can remember very well the first smallpox patients I ever saw. There were six of them. They were large, well developed foreigners, with large faces, but when they had smallpox they seemed to me so huge that I was terrified. In the party was a very feeble old lady, and so ill that she could scarcely walk ( I need not remind you that we had no elevators in those days). I had to take her up to the third storey, which we really kept for smallpox patients only. Well, I plucked up courage and assisted the poor old lady up the stairs, and when I reached the second flight of stairs my fear of smallpox vanished, and from that day to this, as far as I am personally concerned, I much prefer attending this disease to either scarlet fever or diphtheria. Dr. Hampton, the medical superintendent, was away from home, and I had to act on my own judgment. I first started out with the intention of vaccinating every patient in the hospital, but I struck a snag. They would neither be vaccinated, nor could I compel them. I do not think that there was more than one in every ten that would submit to be vaccinated. It was far more difficult to vaccinate then than it is to-day. We had no glass tubes, or ivory points, as we have to-day, but had to content ourselves with the scab taken off the arm of what we thought was a healthy subject. We preferred taking the scab of a healthy young child if we could get it. I think that we usually kept the scab between plates of glass, covered with wax, to keep the air excluded from it. This was the only precaution that we took to prevent the spread of the disease. I went up into the smallpox ward and prescribed for the patients. The nurses left the other wards and attended them, and then we went down through the different wards and halls of the hospital without taking the slightest precautions. I do not think the nurses even washed their hands any oftener than they would under ordinary circumstances, but as far as