

application until it is employed in many conditions—some the diametrical opposites of others. Thus the remedy becomes discredited and we fly to the other extreme and discard it entirely. Such has been the history of blood-letting. That it was abused there can be no doubt. That it is a rational mode of treatment in full-blooded patients who are suffering from such diseases as apoplexy and uræmic poisoning is still maintained by many, and my own experience goes to convince me that in such conditions it is a therapeutic means not to be overlooked. I am convinced that I have seen improvement follow its employment. Again I might instance the advances made in Surgery which have been rendered possible by the discovery of anæsthetics and antiseptics. As other instances of improvement in therapeutics I would simply refer to hypodermatic medication—the use of antiseptics—the employment of anæsthetics—the regulation of the diet according to the known requirements of the disease—the transfusion of blood and saline solutions—serum therapy.

Such are a few of the many gains made in our methods of diagnosis and modes of treatment. Were this all the profession had accomplished we would not have cause to be ashamed. But we have a wider and even a nobler field than the diagnosis and treatment of disease. To cure an individual suffering from any one of the many curable diseases is an act of mercy deserving his gratitude. To prevent the spread of disease is the work of a public benefactor. This prevention of disease, it has seemed to me, has been the crowning glory of our profession during the century now about to close. Some one has said "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." If this be true, how great a debt of gratitude mankind owes the medical profession. For allowing all due credit to humanitarians, philanthropists, scientists and legislators, the main credit for sanitary reforms in every country must be awarded the profession we have the honor to belong to. Our profession has pointed out the nature of disease, the modes of its spread and the means to curtail its ravages. These facts being brought to the attention of the public the necessary steps have been taken to enforce the requisite precautions. Gentleman, I will not weary you with attempting a detailed statement of what has been done in this direction. You know as well as I. Permit me, however, in a general way