

5. All the dairies in the municipality should be under the supervision of the medical health officer, who should be empowered to order the slaughtering of tuberculous animals.

6. As it is impossible to avoid inhaling the bacilli owing to the prevalence of consumption and the neglect of precautions to disinfect tuberculous expectoration, persons predisposed to it should endeavor to secure the freest ventilation without draughts, indoors, and also to pass a large portion of their time outdoors.

7. Special legislation should be passed providing

for the proper ventilation of all workshops, factories, school-houses, churches, theatres, court-houses, and all other places of public resort.

8. On account of the greater activity of the bacilli in a damp medium, as well as for other reasons, the effect of a wet subsoil and consequent dampness in houses should be obviated by drainage of the soil.

9. Exercise, preferably in the open air, on account of its good effects on digestion, circulation, and respiration, together with the use of a nutritious diet, are to be recommended.

EDITORIAL

THE PHYSICIAN AS NATURALIST.

ILLUSTRIOUS as have been many of the Presidents of the British Medical Association, few, indeed, have there been of them whose names have, for twenty-five or more years, stood more prominently out, than that of William T. Gairdner, M.D., LL.D., who delivered the presidential address at this year's meeting in Glasgow. In choice terms he referred to the honor done the old city on the Molindar burn in having so illustrious a gathering meet there, and in language touching and eloquent, sketched the growth of what he says we may claim to be, and appear to you, in the words of St. Paul, "Citizens of no mean city." Passing to the special part of his address, the President referred to the "survival among us of an ancient way of thinking that is presented to the mind by the designation, in English, of the physician, or, as Chaucer has it in his well-known Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, the *Doctour of Physike*." It is curious, said the speaker, that in English alone has this survival occurred; but it is most remarkable, inasmuch as the title "seems to recall a time when the medical art was distinctively associated in the minds of men with the study of *phusis*, and when the healer of the sick was regarded as in a very special, if not exclusive sense, a *student of Nature*," and thus a *naturalist* or a natural philosopher or physicist.

From time immemorial the tradition has continuously existed that the *healer*, or physician of the highest class ought also to be in a very real sense of the word, a *naturalist*, or perhaps a man of

science: that it is his prerogative to be trained and exercised after the best manner and according to the most thorough discipline of the science of his age.

As Bacon, after Hippocrates, has it, the live physician must be "the servant of Nature." Referring historically to this point, Dr. Gairdner says: "And while a good deal of Galen's commentary is, of course, antiquated, and little instructive for us here, there is a curiously modern look about one part of it, which shows that exactly the same evils which have grown up about the art of Medicine in later times, . . . had already become rife in the second century of the Christian era, long before the remote East had sent us that long array of outlandish drugs, or *physic* (popularly so called). The relation of the fight between 'the servants of Nature' and those who, like Asclepiades, whose *role* was interference with Nature's processes, or as the writer puts it, "shove old dame Nature out of the way, perform the cure *tuto, cito, et jucunde* and claim all the credit."

Regarding the "middle ages" little of the old idea of the physician seems to have existed. Roger Bacon's fate indicated that it was dangerous to personal liberty and comfort to pursue anything like original research unless proceeding along the lines of St. Thomas Aquinas, "the angelic doctor."

Of modern *physic*, Gairdner claims a precedence for the three Scotch Universities in having given to the student for several generations at least, a serious beginning by means of a regular academic curriculum, in which a foundation was laid for "*physic*," in the systematized study of certain de-