

ly, if not by such leaps and bounds as surgery, in some directions these advances are more readily perceived than in others. Therapeutics, ever presenting difficult problems in correctly understanding the actions of drugs, has been greatly helped by the study of the physiological actions of such drugs, as pertaining to the right understanding of their therapeutic effects. It is well that this other method of gaining such knowledge has thus been added to the old plan of observing how drugs act in disease. Had we not the advantage of physiological pharmacology, many new remedies would run the risk of being consigned to oblivion that now rank among the most valuable of recent times. It is in preventive medicine the most signal advance has been made and the greatest triumphs of modern medicine won. Prevention is always better than cure. It is better to keep the enemy from entering the fortress than to fight him, even successfully, after he has entered. Bacteriological research has greatly stimulated preventive medicine by demonstrating the absolute necessity for pure water, pure air, cleanliness, purity of nourishment—liquid and solid. But it has done much more. By showing that many diseases result from microbic affection, it indicates that the true solution of their treatment is to be sought in modifying the character of the microbes and their products, so that immunity may result by the inoculation of a weakened virus. In how slow and laborious a manner has this knowledge been acquired! Foreshadowed many years ago in the far East, in the practice of inoculation of the smallpox virus under the skin, that a milder disease might result, and immunity be secured from a subsequent attack. A gigantic forward stride was made when Jenner's observation showed that cowpox is but a mild form of smallpox, that vaccination is a safeguard against this loathsome disease; but this may be regarded as the dawning of the day of bacteriological investigation and research, a field in which many acute minds are busy workers; by whose exertions many new secrets are being almost hourly wrested from nature's jealous keeping. But, gentlemen, I feel I must no longer trench upon your patience and good nature. Ere I close, let me express the hope that many will freely discuss the papers presented. In this association free discussion has ever been our rule. Sharp, pungent criticism is often given. Equally energetic is the reply made in defence of some pet theory or view; but always the best of feeling and harmony reigns. Such discussion assists us out of any routine groove into which the best of us are liable to fall, forces upon us the necessity to occasionally examine ourselves—to compare now with the past; to see to it that we do not retrograde or remain stationary, but be ever striving to improve in our better understanding of nature and her laws. If this broadening of our knowledge is associated with a true love of our profession, devotion to our sacred and honorable duties, we are sure to be useful to our fellow-men, and in our generation.