

character. And what are the advantages resulting therefrom? Cutaneous affections are regarded less as local affections, than as local manifestations of a general disturbance. Our own Erasmus Wilson simplifies cutaneous disorders still more by placing them in four groups—an *assimilative* group; a *nutritive* group; a *neurotic* group; and a *specific*, of which syphilis is the only example. "Nearly every new disease of the skin," says he, "might be comprised, therapeutically, under these four heads." What a stride is here made in a most interesting branch of medicine! and yet only in conformity with the experience of every thoughtful and observant practitioner. The tyro in medicine has, or thinks he has, a half dozen remedies for every disease; but as experience is gained, he learns, and with advantage to his patients, to make a fewer number of remedies to suit a much greater number of disorders. And thus it is in surgery; and thus it will be in Gynæcology, when the process of resolving the more hidden operations of nature shall have had its limits somewhat defined.

I have always thought, and the belief has strengthened with observation, that the work of grouping diseases for therapeutic purposes is yet to be done. Sir Henry Holland, many years ago, partially guided the current of medical thought in that direction. But the tendency to analysis, which the study of minute anatomy, and the use of the microscope, so greatly favoured, diverted that current, till the observations of a Neumann, of an Auspitz, or of an Erasmus Wilson, showed, in one department of medicine, at least, what might, with great advantage, be accomplished in all. Perhaps some member of this Association may yet achieve in other departments of the healing art what has been so well effected in this.

STATE MEDICINE.

Without taking from the important useful advances in medicine; the splendid triumphs of the surgeon; the wonderful precision of diagnosis of the modern gynæcologist;—there is a department as important as any of these; yet one so recent, that it is only within the past few years it has found a distinct place in any of the medical schools of the Dominion. I allude to State Medicine. Its object is, as tersely stated by J. Marion Sims, "to do everything necessary to protect the health of communities and states. It investigates the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the fuel we burn, the houses we live