

tion of his organs, and if while ill he is throwing off into his surroundings living agents, capable of reproducing and perpetuating the disease in others, what is to be done in the matter?

Through elaborate investigations, along lines that cannot be discussed at this moment, it was found that every living body is endowed by nature with weapons of defense, more or less capable of protecting the body from harmful micro-organisms, and that by appropriate therapeutic measures these natural defenses, if not susceptible of increase, may be supported, so that though invaded the body has still a chance to bring about its own cure. In brief, there are some diseases that the Doctor does not cure,—he helps nature and she cures them.

In the meantime a host of investigators were occupied in studying these exciting factors when thrown off from the living body. They found them capable of life outside the body; capable of infecting other bodies to which they might gain access; capable in some instances of multiplying under special environment; but of most importance, easily destroyed by a host of substances that might be applied to them, *i.e.* by germicides. This being the case it is plain that diseases of this class should be to some extent, preventable by isolation and by the destruction of all morbid agents arising from them. In other words, we see some of the beginnings of what has developed into the medicine of the day, *viz.*—Preventive Medicine.

These facts, together with others of equal importance that developed rapidly, shed a new light upon the problems and conceptions of the sanitarian. He realized that the origin, spread and management of infective disease were to be viewed from a new standpoint. He saw that many hitherto obscure questions of transmission or of prophylaxis were susceptible of solution by trustworthy practical methods, so he at once demanded laboratories in which such methods could be applied and, as in the case of his colleagues, the pathologist and bacteriologist, he got them. But, you may inquire, have the developments in these purely experimental fields been productive of good commensurate with the cost?

With all due deference to the marked achievements in the clinical branches, it is safe to say that the triumphs of modern medicine originated with and were developed by the laboratory workers. In this connexion need only to be mentioned the ultimate outcome of a line of investigations begun with Pasteur's observations upon sick chickens, passing to the successful vaccination of live stock against the ravages of anthrax, and culminating in the discovery that in the blood of an animal recovered from diphtheria intoxication, there is a substance having the power not only to prevent diphtheria in man but, when