

teaching. The quotations from well known and most recent text-books introduced by the author, as well as others which could have been cited, illustrate well this condition of mind. Osler's opening sentence on treatment, for example: "The profession was long in learning that typhoid fever is not a disease to be treated by medicines"; or in the latest edition of Fagge, 1891, we read (page 171) that "no method of treatment has yet been discovered by which the course of the disease can be shattered," and, on page 174, "No qualified man would think of giving ordinary laxatives in enteric fever." On the same page, the author actually congratulates himself that in the case of two patients who had died from hemorrhage while undergoing this let-alone treatment he had *abstained from interference*! It would seem, too, according to the author of these papers, that, in a negative way, we have been aiding in the production of the very condition we most dread; *i.e.*, perforation and hemorrhage. In a recent number of *The New York Medical Record*, Dr. Osler, in a note to the editor, reminds Dr. Thistle that he must not claim the credit of introducing purgation treatment in typhoid, inasmuch as Larroque, of Paris, in 1841, had advocated treatment by purgation. We have not been able to discover Larroque's article, but have read the very brief, but somewhat satirical, review indicated by Dr. Osler in *The British and Foreign Medical Review* for 1841. Dr. Osler does not state where the original paper may be seen. However, if Dr. Osler will read the recent paper, he will find that the author does not claim to have introduced purgation in the treatment of typhoid, but does claim to be the introducer of a plan of treatment directed against the bacillus and its toxic product.

This plan he divides into three parts: (1) Elimination of bacteria from the intestine, and of its toxic product, both from the intestine and, by drainage and flushing, from the tissues as well. Larroque, fifty years ago, knew nothing of the typhoid bacillus or of its product. True, he attributed the disease to the result of decomposition in the intestine, and, therefore, he was close to the truth, and his treatment logical. (2) The author advocates constant efforts to maintain the volume of the body fluids by taking at frequent intervals large draughts of water, as well as nutritious fluids, so as to compensate for that drained off through the intestine. This also facilitates the removal of the poison through the kidney. By this measure exhaustion is prevented, and the poison is kept in diluted and less harmful form. The author lays stress upon this second factor in treatment, holding that elimination can be successfully and safely carried out only when purgation is associated with the injection of large quantities of fluid. Not having seen Larroque's article, we cannot say whether he had such an adjuvant to his purgation; but since he knew nothing of the soluble toxine, nor of the colonies of bacteria producing it