

which form the basis of medical doctrine and practice—Anatomy, Physiology, Biology and Chemistry. A time in which the whole practice of surgery has been changed—been based upon principles entirely new, but proved by the severest tests of experience to be founded upon unalterable laws—a change so great that the accomplished student of twenty years ago would find himself to-day committing the most egregious enormities and sinning perpetually against the first elements as now understood. A time in which a generous rivalry has been kept up between the two great departments of Medicine and Surgery, and, great and startling as has been the progress in the latter, it is doubtful if the advances in the former have not been fully equal or even greater. For, whilst Lister and his followers have abundantly shown to the world the enormous importance of what we now call “surgical cleanliness” (a truth till now never properly appreciated), Pasteur, Koch and others have been searching for the true cause and prevention of cholera, hydrophobia, and the other great scourges of mankind. Animalcular life, and its bearing upon the diseases of man and animals, has assumed an importance heretofore undreamt of: and the science of Bacteriology has sprung at once into the forefront as an absorbing pursuit, already fruitful of wonderful results which have opened up a boundless field for investigation, and afford endless scope for observation, thought, and research! A time in which Preventive Medicine has begun to occupy the place to which its importance justly entitles it. Before this period, sanitary science was but in its infancy, sanitary laws were but little understood, and sanitary regulations seldom enforced. Now, the questions of sanitary legislation attract the attention and occupy the minds of the highest statesmanship. The more civilized the country, the more widely is knowledge of public health matters disseminated, the more carefully are statistics collected, the greater the skill and talent exhibited to cope with the difficulties surrounding the sanitary legislator. In fact, there is now no better test of the intelligence and real civilization of a community than an estimation of the attention given to the enforcement of sanitary laws and the degree of diffusion of sound