

powerful ally of ours, the *vis medicatrix naturae*, emphasis is here laid on this natural drift of the condition towards cure. Dr. Norris (Hare's "System of Practical Therapeutics," Vol. 2., p. 850) puts this idea in other words, when he says that "a placebo often gives good results, and many good results from various drugs, no doubt, are thus explained."

Bristowe states that the disease is not usually dangerous to life and that when death occurs it is usually due to some intercurrent affection. Fagge states also that most cases eventually recover, and that he knew of few deaths. G. R. Murray (*Lancet*, Dec. 13th, 1902) found that out of 40 consecutive cases of his own, 31 progressed favorably and 7 died. W. M. Ord and Hector Mackenzie (C. Allbutt's "System of Medicine," Vol. 4, p. 502) came to the conclusion that about 25 per cent. of all well-marked cases ended in death; that about 50 per cent. attain more or less complete recovery; and that the balance of 25 per cent. remain in *statu quo* or only slightly improve.

The general opinion, then, as judged from literature, is that few cases die directly from the disease, but that many do so from intercurrent affections, and that, while the cases are hard to keep track of, about 50 per cent., more or less, recover eventually.

The essential nature of the disease is uncertain, but the favorite theory is that most of the symptoms are due to an excess of thyroid secretion circulating in the blood; in other words, the patient is suffering from thyroid poisoning, and is, in fact, in a condition the very opposite of myxœdema. She is intensely nervous and emotional, and the least physical, mental or emotional excitement sends her already fast pulse up and produces flushing and perspiration. It is most essential that such a case should be put at rest; perhaps not in bed, although this is often the best at first. She should be kept mentally, physically and emotionally quiet.

The state of the general health should be raised as high as possible, and anæmia, constipation, and any other abnormal condition should be carefully attended to.

The diet should be plain and good, and all stimulants had better be omitted, including tea and coffee.

Beyond these general methods of raising the tone of the patients, our endeavors may be classed under two headings:

1. To prevent the excessive production of thyroid secretion; or to neutralize the poisonous amount of it that is circulating in the blood.