

lieve anything that they are told if only they are told it often enough. And if the statement is couched in semi-scientific or mysterious phraseology they seize upon it with all the greater avidity. Otherwise, how would bonesetters, vendors of patent medicines, and other quacks, qualified and unqualified, flourish like a green bay tree in a sunny corner of an arboretum?

But is the outlook in advanced tuberculous disease necessarily so hopeless in the absence of active surgical treatment? To answer this important question I will instance an imaginary case of a young man who, a year or so previously, hurt his back in a fall at a gymnasium. He has now pectoral neuralgias, and dull pains between his shoulder-blades and in his back, which have probably been ascribed to "rheumatism." Eventually the discovery is made that the third and fourth dorsal spinous processes are unduly prominent, and it is evident that the bodies of those vertebræ have undergone tuberculous disintegration. The disease is close behind the arch of the aorta, and the surgeon is unable to get at it. He cannot scrape it, and he cannot even irrigate it with germicidal lotions. I believe that there are some surgeons who would attack it if they could: *rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur*; but fortunately one cannot possibly get at it. What, then, is to be the future of this patient? Is he going to die the death, as the guinea-pig would, in the laboratory? Most certainly not. Everyone here has acquaintance with such an individual, or if he does not know him personally he has seen him in the street. He is rather a short man with peculiarly high, square shoulders, and with a boss between them. And not only has he long since outgrown his tuberculous disease without any operative assistance whatever, but could we see him in his own home, we might not improbably find him—and I say it with some regret—surrounded by a number of apparently healthy sons and daughters.

Such a case is one of great clinical importance; it shows that a man with an undoubted tuberculous lesion of the first magnitude can completely recover without having undergone any operative procedure. At the end of the 19th century it is somewhat unusual for any patient with any surgical affec-