

whose face showed the same abhorrence of soap. Looking down upon the child for a moment, he solemnly remarked, "It seems to be suffering from hydropathetic hydrophobia." "Oh, doctor, is it so bad as that?" cried the mother, "that's a big sickness for such a mite. Whatever shall I do for the child?" "Wash its face, madam; the disease will go off with the dirt." "Wash its face! Wash its face, indeed!" exclaimed the matron, losing her temper. "What next, I'd like to know?" "Wash your own, madam, wash your own." There is one thing about the story that seems somewhat improbable. It describes the physician as a young man just commencing practice. In these days, when the profession is so crowded, it is not likely that a young doctor would be so neglectful of his own interests as to drive away his first patients, even if they had dirty faces. The anecdote would be altogether credible if it described the doctor as old, with a very large practice.

Among diseases about which we have still more to learn are smallpox and scarlet fever, two typical contagious diseases, but, strange to say, the specific germ for each has not been discovered. The bug that produces scarlet fever must possess great vitality, for the infection remains in clothes that have been put away for months, or even years. The ravages of smallpox have been checked by the invaluable discovery of Jenner, the hundredth anniversary of which has been celebrated this year. In practising vaccination Jenner anticipated to a great extent the principle of serum-therapy. If now the germ of smallpox were discovered, cultures made, and an antitoxin prepared, then preventive measures against smallpox would be freed from the objections raised against the use of vaccine lymph. Even in this enlightened day you will occasionally meet with people (physicians sometimes), who, although in other respects quite intelligent, are yet strongly opposed to vaccination. Such people have been given a severe but wholesome lesson in what happened in Gloucester, England, recently. There a feeling was stirred up against vaccination, and the authorities did away with compulsory vaccination. Smallpox broke out, and finding a suitable soil caused such a mortality that the people were quickly brought to their senses. It is another example of the discipline of consequences, Nature's way of "making the punishment fit the crime."

Cancer is a disease about which there is room for further knowledge, both as to origin and treatment. The lay mind has a peculiar idea as to the nature of cancer, and imagines that the salves and plasters of the so-called cancer-doctors draw it out by the roots, even as the stumping-machine pulls the old stumps out of the farmer's back field. Various theories of the origin of cancer have been advanced, but no one theory has been generally accepted. It is perhaps safe to say that the excessive growth of cells is due to irritation, but the nature of the irritant is not