

Jenner, Haffkine, Lister, Pasteur and Koch, who will do their good share in blotting out preventable diseases.

Surgery has not been idle and has contributed its liberal part toward reducing the death-rate and diminishing human suffering. Based on the teachings of Pasteur and Lister, a system of aseptic and antiseptic precautions has been gradually perfected, which is now in force wherever modern surgery is practised, and which has been the means of almost entirely eliminating from wound complications the disastrous affections due to infection, and has greatly increased the range of operative procedures. Primary healing of wounds is now the rule, instead of the exception, as was the case only a quarter of a century ago. Hospital gangrene, the black monster of military and civil hospitals less than half a century ago, has disappeared from the face of the earth never to return. Erysipelas and pyemia have become pathologic curiosities. Secondary hemorrhage, such a frequent and dangerous occurrence formerly, seldom now disturbs the peace of mind of the operating surgeon since he has come in possession of the aseptic absorbable ligature.

CARCINOMA A MYSTERY.

There is one dark chapter in surgery to which I wish to call your attention on this occasion, and in which I desire to enlist the interest of the medical profession throughout the entire world—it is carcinoma. It is an old, old subject, which has interested the profession for centuries and, which, notwithstanding the prodigious efforts which have been made to solve the mystery of its real cause and nature, remains unexplained. Carcinoma is so common, and, according to recent statistics, unquestionably on the increase that it behooves our profession to make use of every possible means and avenue to discover its real cause and nature, and, having accomplished this, to open up the way for its prevention and more successful treatment.

The prevalence of this disease, its relentless course and obstinacy to all known methods of treatment surround it with the gloom of fear and hopelessness to the public. By hearsay and observation the masses of the people are firmly impressed with the idea that carcinoma is a fatal disease, and when such a diagnosis is made it is regarded as a death sentence. The medical profession is equally aware of the painful fact that in the great majority of patients afflicted with this disease it