

the disease, and take into consideration the conservative and curative forces of nature as much as the effects of our therapeutic remedies.

In view of the rapid advancements made in all branches of our profession, it behooves any one who studied fifty years ago to be an assiduous student if he does not want to be left in the back ground.

Nothing has caused a greater revolution than the discovery by Pasteur of the microorganism as the cause of diseases and the "holy war" waged by Lister in combatting the effects of their insidious work.

As the change in the mode of treatment of many diseases, and especially in handling surgical cases, is so radical, you can readily understand that I had to unlearn much that had been taught me in the old schools and to grapple with and take in all the advanced ideas and modes of treatment. Much of it could be learned readily from current medical literature, but after many years of surgical practice in the old and careless manner, it was no easy matter to drop into the new aseptic practice. But it was my bounden duty to do so, and I therefore read carefully the literature on the subject, attentively scanned the ways of graduates of the new school, and visited hospitals in search of new light.

On one occasion, while in the Montreal General Hospital, after carefully watching the doctors preparing themselves for an important operation, I had my attention fixed on one of the nurses who seemed to be taking very great pains with herself, washing and bathing. Just then she had her bare arms immersed in a solution of permanganate of potash. She observed my attention fixed on her and, looking smilingly at me, said "Doctor, you see we nurses have to do a good deal of washing and scrubbing here."

But, better than all, my son, who had graduated recently from one of these clean schools, and was well trained in all the new microbic ideas, practised with me for a length of time. He was very particular with himself in all operations, so much so that I often thought him quite too exacting. However, I was a willing student. On one occasion, when I was about to