

upon the number of ounces of blood to be removed and the number of times that venesection should be repeated? Does any one now doubt that the composition of the blood itself is at fault, principally by reason of impaired digestion, and that the suffering can be greatly relieved by the free use of alkalis? How can we now bleed patients four, five or six times in as many days, now when we believe that the nature of the blood itself is injured? We cannot expect to draw away all of a man's blood; what can we hope to gain by removing it at all? And now that we know the danger of the cardiac affections so intimately connected with this condition of the blood, must we not address ourselves to the work of correcting or neutralising, if possible, this condition? And now we use the test-tube and the filter and the microscope, and study the effect of our treatment in the constitution of the urine, varying our remedies with the observed results, as we formerly studied the buffy coat on the successive bleedings of the good old time, and used or gave up the lancet according to these appearances.

We have seen the traces of the influence of organic chemistry on our notions respecting the nature of rheumatism and its treatment. Let us look for a moment at a group of diseases once the most difficult to cure and wearing out the patience of the sufferer and of his physician. I refer to that of the tinea. Read a book twenty-five years old and see the confusion and inconsistency of men's views concerning these affections, alas! but too common among the wretched poor. But the microscope has come and shown to us the *trichophyton tonsurans*, the *achorion schöuleinii*, and the three species, *audouinii*, *mentagrophytes* and *furfur* of the genus *microsporon*, just as some years before it had made known the *acarus* as the cause of the itch. And now these troublesome affections last as many days as they did months, and are cured with certainty. Resisting for months and years all the appliances of art in former times, they yield in a few days or weeks to a treatment directed against the vegetable parasite. "*Sublata causa, tollitur effectus*," and having destroyed the spores of this troublesome group of plants, we feel that we have delivered our patient from his sufferings.

If any one wishes to know whether our changes in therapeutics are based on advances in true science, let him read any work on menstruation thirty years ago. He will thus learn that nearly all of what we now know respecting this important function has been acquired since that date. And is it to be wondered that a great change has resulted in our treatment of such cases? And so of *anæmia* and *chlorosis*. Nothing would tend more to encourage our young practitioners in the cultivation of medical science than an occasional comparison of its present condition