

Is a knowledge of the true action of the pulse of no account to the physician? Is a knowledge of the blood pressure in the arteries and the veins useless in the treatment of disease?

Would the medical man be tolerated who held to-day that the views of Galen were correct? And yet there is every probability that we would all be talking about "ethereal spirit," and holding all the other erroneous theories of Galen and his followers, had experimental enquiry been totally abolished.

A knowledge of the true functions of the absorbent vessels cannot be over-estimated; by it we are enabled to make use of the hypodermic syringe, a diminutive little instrument, but one which has been the means of saving many lives; by it, also, much of the anxiety of ovariectomy, and other intra-abdominal operations involving the peritoneum, is removed. To it also do we owe the employment of cat-gut, which is universally used with remarkable success.

And yet, in the face of all this, we have all around us men and women perpetually declaiming on the "uselessness of Vivisection," and publishing violent tirades on the inhuman barbarities practised by those who perform experiments upon living animals. To such as these, no better answer can be given than that of the great experimenter Harvey. He writes: "There are some who say I have shown a vain glorious love of Vivisection, and who scoff at the introduction of frogs and serpents, flies and other lower animals, upon the scene, as a piece of puerile levity, and they do not hesitate to use opprobrious epithets. But to return evil-speaking with evil-speaking I hold to be unworthy in a philosopher and searcher of the truth. I believe I shall do better and more advisedly, if I meet so many indications of ill-breeding, with the light of faithful and conclusive observation. Detractors, murmurers, and writers filled with abuse, I resolved never to read them, satisfied that nothing solid or excellent, nothing but disagreeable terms, was to be expected from

them, so have I held them still less worthy of an answer. Let them consume on their own ill-nature; let them go on railing until they are weary, if not ashamed."

The success which has been won by antiseptic surgery during the past few years gives it an honourable place in the ranks of those means which are essentially devoted to the saving of human life. This method of surgical treatment, by which I refer more especially to that form introduced by Professor Lister, and now called "Listerism," is based upon the results of a very large number of experiments conducted by Koch, Pasteur, Tyndall, Lister, and many others, and has for its object the prevention of those putrefactive changes produced in animal matter by organisms or bacteria, which exist in the air, or, in other words, the destruction of these organisms.

That the strong and fixed position which "Listerism" has obtained in the surgical treatment of wounds, depends entirely upon experimental observation, may be amply verified by consulting the works of any of the authors above mentioned; time does not permit of my doing anything like justice to this part of the subject; but the results of this form of treatment are too great and convincing to go unmentioned, even although this can be done but very imperfectly. Prof. Keith in his pamphlet "Ovariectomy before and after Antiseptics," published in 1878, says:—"Ovariectomy is not the operation it was 15 or 16 years ago—or even 2 years ago. The best results in the old way were difficult to get, and no one knows, but who has experienced it, the anxiety and weariness of spirit with which the struggle against the blood poison was carried on in the early days of ovariectomy. It is something to think that no one will again have to suffer these experiences in the same degree, and it almost makes one envy the younger ovariectomists to whom the way in these days is made so easy. Now there is a feeling of confidence and security; the constant fret and worry to