

How necessary to bear in mind what he says about the method of the study of medicine. In writing, therefore, such a natural history of diseases, every merely philosophical hypothesis should be set aside, and the manifest and natural phenomena, however minute; should be noted with the utmost exactness. The usefulness of this procedure cannot be easily overrated, as compared with the subtle inquiries and trifling notions of modern writers, for can there be a shorter, or indeed any other way of coming at the morbid causes, or discovering the curative indications than by a certain perception of the peculiar symptoms? By these steps and helps it was that the father of physic, the great Hippocrates, came to excel, his theory being no more than an exact description or view of nature. He found that nature alone often terminates diseases, and works a cure with a few simple medicines, and often enough with no medicines at all. Well, indeed, has a recent writer remarked: "Sydenham is unlike every previous teacher of the principles and practice of medicine in the modern world." Sydenham, not Linacre or Harvey, is the model British physician in whom were concentrated all those practical instincts upon which we lay such stress in the Anglo-Saxon character.

The Greek faculty which we possess of thinking and acting has enabled us, in spite of many disadvantages, to take the lion's share in the great practical advances in medicine. Three among the greatest scientific movements of the century have come from Germany and France. Bichât, Lænnec and Louis laid the foundation of modern clinical medicine; Virchow and his pupils of scientific pathology; while Pasteur and Koch have revolutionized the study of the causes of disease; and yet, the modern history of the art of medicine could almost be written in its fullness from the records of the Anglo-Saxon race. We can claim almost every practical advance of the very first rank—vaccination, anæsthesia, preventive medicine and antiseptic surgery, the "captain jewels in the carcanet" of the profession, beside which can be placed no others of equal lustre.

One other lesson of Sydenham's life needs careful conning. The English Hippocrates, as I said, broke with authority. His motto was :

"Thou nature art my goddess; to thy law
My services are bound."

Undue reverence for authority as such, a serene satisfaction with the *status quo* and a fatuous objection to change have often retarded the progress of medicine. In every generation, in every country,