

of so called inflammation, the weakness is the only thing that demands immediate attention, and to neglect its treatment is to run the risk of sacrificing the patient. This is the reason why nutrituous food, wine and tonics are now advantageously employed in inflammatory and febrile diseases instead of the antiphlogistic treatment. Most of those diseases curable by any means are curable by the unaided powers of nature; and the chief art of the physician as of the surgeon consists in regulating and directing the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, or those natural forces which will cure a fever or an inflamed lung as surely and as completely as they will heal a wound or fractured bone.

Owing to the comparatively small amount of medicine now administered, physicians of the present day have been charged with a want of faith in their power to cure disease. But such is not the case. On the contrary, I believe more real good and less harm is done by medicines now than formerly. Remedies injurious to the constitution and dangerous to life are less frequently administered, and when they are deemed necessary they are discontinued as early as possible and milder means substituted.

Time will not permit me to review the present state of surgery and obstetrics. Suffice it to say that in both these departments advances of the most striking and satisfactory kind have been made within the past few years, which will be fully explained in the lectures.

*Palliative Medicine.*—It unfortunately happens that many diseases are incurable by any means yet devised. In such cases all that the medical attendant can do is to relieve the most urgent symptoms and sustain the patient's strength. This is done by attention to his general health and by the administration of remedies that alleviate pain and promote repose. Here, too, Modern medicine has within the last quarter of a century discovered two of the most efficient means. I refer to the hypodermic injection of anodynes and to *anæsthetics*; the former the most prompt means we now possess for the relief of urgent local pain, and the latter, besides rendering a patient about to undergo a severe surgical operation oblivious to suffering, is often successfully employed by the physician for the relief of the most acute pain. By these means so recently discovered more can be done than formerly for the prevention and relief of suffering. And so well are the functions of the human body and the influence of medicines, food, clothing and climate, understood at the present time, that much more can be done than formerly by judicious medical treatment and hygienic measures, for persons convalescing from ordinary diseases and for promoting the comfort and prolonging the lives of invalids affected by chronic and incurable maladies.