

intricate problems of pharmacology. But, be this as it may, it is certainly a far cry and a blessed one from the shavings and blisterings, the bleedings and burnings, the purges and clysters, the opiates and the salivatings of not many years ago; and strange as it may appear, like the Jackdaw of Rheims and the Cardinals Curse "nobody seems one penny the worse."

Bacteriology and Pathological Histology practically unknown, we may say, 25 years ago, are now of daily assistance to throw light in dark places; while in the use of the X-rays and other instruments of precision we have an adequate substitute for the "clinical sense" on which our fathers relied.

Nor does this increased knowledge necessarily imply a more laborious life, for with the advent of scientific methods in medicine much of its mystery has disappeared and in all walks of life the unknown is the more exacting. After all, the practice of medicine is largely "applied common sense" and as the practical, daily supersedes the mysterious, a great weight is lifted off the shoulders of the practitioner.

But all these advantages constitute the general practitioner a debtor. He owes much to the predecessor, he owes much to posterity.

For the discharge of his obligations, the Medical Society offers a convenient resort; to it he may, and must, bring the result of his experience, his failures and successes. He must show his cases as the result of work done or in order to gain enlightenment for work to do.

I venture to suggest to my fellow members, here and elsewhere, that we, as a body, have hardly heretofore done enough along the line of original work. It would be a grand thing if each of us would make a hobby of one particular investigation, no matter what or how small the detail. To fix on something early in one's career, to be always on the watch for it, to observe, investigate, think about it at convenient seasons for twenty years and then to bring the results to the Medical Society.

In a single generation we would have such a flood of light thrown on the field of Clinical medicine as has never before been seen.