

Editorials.

Tendencies in Medical Practice.

WHEN one casts his eyes around and takes a survey of practice now and twenty years ago, several questions force themselves upon his attention.

Among the first of these is that there is a rapid increase in the size and numbers of the hospital staffs all over the world. A doctor takes up a specialty and opens a private hospital. This gives him considerable local standing, and draws patients from a distance from other medical men. This tendency to gather a large volume of work under one roof is growing. This increases the reputation and gain of a few and lessens both to the many.

Then again the prevention of diseases occupies a prominent place in the public thought. Cities, towns, townships, counties, countries are active in their efforts to prevent the spread of disease. This enlightened action, however, has the effect of decreasing the amount of practice. Further, it must be noticed with much satisfaction that the condition of workshops and factories is now in a much more sanitary condition than they formerly were in.

The search for specific methods of treatment is claiming much attention. Great advances have been made in the case of diphtheria. It must be now admitted that a thorough series of tests have yielded an affirmative answer as to the value of antitoxin. In the case of tuberculosis much is being done, both in the line of prevention and cure. Twenty years ago but little was heard of contagium vivum; now it is taking first place in medical thought, and leading to some all-important discoveries, as witness the comparative ease with which the onward march of epidemic cholera can be arrested.

On the other hand, new occupations and new methods of transit must bring in their wake new diseases and injuries. This is readily seen in the enormous numbers employed in electrical works and riding on wheels. It is too soon yet to form any definite opinions as to the effects which will result from so much bicycle riding placed in the possession of young boys and girls whose habits are not yet formed, and whose bodies are plastic. Bad habits and shapes may very easily be acquired.

The high pressure under which so many are living, especially in the large cities, is producing a very large number of cases of nervous