

hepatic trouble; but from then onward it continually appeared, like Banquo at the banquet. He could scatter the hosts of Europe and alter its kingdoms, but he was powerless against the mutinous cells of his own mucous membrane.

SUFFERED FROM CANCER.

"Again and again he had attacks of lethargy, amounting almost to collapse at moments when all his energy was most required. At the crisis of Waterloo he had such an attack, and sat his horse like a man dazed for hours of the action. Finally the six years at St. Helena furnish a clinical study of gastric disease which was all explained in the historical post-mortem examination, which disclosed cancer covering the whole wall of the stomach and actually perforating it at the hepatic border.

"Napoleon's whole career was profoundly modified by his complaint. There have been many criticisms—not unnatural ones—of his petty, querulous and undignified attitude during his captivity; but if his critics knew what it was to digest their food with an organ which had hardly a square inch of healthy tissue upon it they would, perhaps, take a more generous view of the conduct of Napoleon. For my own part I think that his fortitude was never more shown than during those years—the best proof of which was that his guardians had no notion how ill he was until within a few days of his actual death.

"History abounds with examples of what I have called the romance of medicine. Look at the men, for example, who were the prime movers in the French Revolution. They were a diseased company—a pathological museum. Was Marat's view of life tainted by his loathsome skin disease, for which he was taking hot baths when Charlotte Corday cut him off? Was the incorruptible but bilious Robespierre the victim of his own liver? Was Couthon's heart embittered by his disfigured limbs?

REVOCATION OF EDICT OF NANTES.

"These are the problems where medicine infringes upon history, and these are the illustrations of the philosophy which is only open to the medical thinker. How many times do the most important historical developments appear to depend upon small physical causes? There is, for example, the case of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. By this measure the whole history of France has been profoundly modified, because by that action there were driven forth the Huguenots.

"Now, how came Louis XIV., who had always held out upon