

pirical practice, have given place to minute investigation, exact experiment, logical deduction and rational procedure. But the end is not yet. What we deem advanced knowledge, our sons may regard as antiquated error.

As a result of these advances the prevalence of disease has considerably diminished within the memory of the present generation, and the character of disease is altering in the direction of attenuation. This is not merely fortuitous but the direct result of our successful interference.

The layman may express a doubt as to the truth of this statement for we often hear it said that such and such are new diseases and were never heard of years ago. This is the impression the layman has from the better classification of disease, which has resulted from diagnosis becoming more and more a science, depending on technical knowledge, skill, and instruments of precision. There are, however, certain diseases which are practically extinct. Typhus fever, relapsing fever, scorbutus, cholera are never heard of here. Then some are known to be preventable and might be extinguished by present methods if carried out more stringently; for example, small-pox and hydrophobia. A third class has been limited to a great extent, but we do not expect complete suppression; such as typhoid, diphtheria, scarlet fever, the minor exanthems and the septic infections. The increasing healthiness of the community is to my mind a feature of the end of the century. There is however a limit to this prospect. Altho' in the distant future all may live healthier lives and die of old age, some diseases must remain. If the elimination of disease continued at the same rate as during the last fifty years the time might be foretold when the profession should be represented only at the birth and death of our fellow creatures. But the most virulent diseases are those most easily prevented. Those which cannot be suppressed are likely to be perpetuated by our success in saving the weaker lives. The medical man will continue to be consulted for the medical needs of the various periods of life, for the numerous affections of women, for nervous diseases, for drug diseases and habits, for food diseases, and for dangers from tropical diseases. The dread of disease and the desire for prevention will remain. Tho' disease may be restricted the opportunities of the profession for