

ten or twenty years. There is yet much to be done ere the millennium comes. True, nursing has become a fine art; diphtheria has been largely robbed of its terrors, and, though rampant, is curable; the mortality of typhoid has been reduced one-half; but the fatality of cancer has steadily increased; the white plague stalks through the land, and the death-rate of infants, owing mostly to intestinal troubles, is still very high, and not on the decrease. Indeed, without being pessimistic, one might almost surmise with what surprise old Hippocrates would rise and rub his eyes as he inquired, "What! is there any sickness left, and can you not cure every one yet?" One thing this hoary sage would, perhaps, not know—the masses of mankind require to be protected against themselves. One almost feels as if the hands had gone back on the dial of the world's progress when one recalls that at Jenner's centenary the city where his method of vaccination had come into vogue was in the throes of an epidemic of smallpox due to the ignoring of his great discovery. Public opinion, of course, stands for what men think, or others think of them, and there is yet ample scope for State medicine to ply its persuasive powers until men think aright about matters which affect the well-being of the community, and the presumed welfare of the individual shall not stand against the weal of the masses. Unfortunately, none are so blind as those who will not see. This is too often the crux; and it would seem that in the matter of vaccination people deliberately close their eyes to the plain force of facts, and cherish the delusion, "Better bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of." Compulsory vaccination seems to many a harsh and doubtful expedient, but what it has done in Germany it can do the world over; and the dictates of wise prudence and the lessons of ample experience show conclusively that it should be enforced. Here a true paternalism of the State with the active support of the profession should override so-called conscientious scruples. Done under the rules of asepsis, as it always should be, and with the use of pure vaccine, now always to be had, the risk is practically *nil*.

The work of the past decade has given the profession itself some new ideas in regard to the mechanical and the chemical processes of digestion. New laboratory methods by Cannon of Harvard and Pawlow of St. Petersburg have cleared up some moot points. That the stomach is a receptacle and a sort of churn is old news, but that the first part is a mere receptacle, and the other a kind of "mill," which is perforce the more common seat of mischief, requiring surgical treatment, may not be.