

the cat—no bad substitute for asafoetida—was considered “the sovereign’st thing on earth for fits.”

My father was the first in the neighborhood to treat diseases *secundum artem* ; but in those days the principles of medicine as taught by Sydenham and Cullen had not become obsolete, and he never hesitated to use contra-stimulants or the lancet in inflammation, in what was called inflammatory fever, or sthenic cases of disease with hyperaction, where he considered that the patient’s constitution would endure the treatment.

It was in this school that I learned the first rudiments of medicine, and in the first years of my practice I used the lancet with more or less freedom. And though the doctrine of Hugh Bennett and his followers has largely affected my practice, I am by no means convinced that the disuse of the lancet has been an unmitigated blessing. As there were brave men before Agamemnon, so there were skilful and *successful* physicians before we were thought of, or a bacterium discovered. It was certainly a dangerous mode of treatment for the mere routinist, who bled, blistered, and salivated each patient, as a matter of course ; but was a powerful weapon for good in the hands of the careful, observing physician, who understood the course and effect of disease, and carefully and intelligently studied and watched those of his remedies. And while our modern treatment saves patients who would have died under the old régime, I am convinced that the vigorous treatment of our fathers saved many who would have been allowed to die under the expectant treatment so fashionable a few years ago.

Diphtheria reached us before railways had opened up the country, and I repeatedly saw it on isolated farms, surrounded by woods, and where it could not possibly have been carried from without, and where the land had been so recently redeemed from the forest that it could not have been derived from some previous but forgotten case. This has seemed to me to prove that the origin of the Klebs-Loëfler bacillus requires further investigation. We also had cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis ; and I was much interested in a paper read by Dr. (now Sir James) Grant at the first meeting which I attended of this association, in (I think) the year 1869. It was on “Cerebro-spinal Meningitis,” or, as he termed it, “Purpuric Fever,” as it appeared in the Ottawa Valley. It had appeared with us at the same time ; and, changing the locality and the names, his paper would have fairly described my cases and their results.

The country became rapidly and thoroughly cleaned and drained, and it so completely rid us of the cause of miasmatic disease that I have scarcely seen a case of ague in twenty or twenty-five years, nor a case of old-fashioned remittent in my own practice of some forty years, and it is so long since we have had a case of murrain among our cattle that it has