

fact that when once the enemy is repelled, the army is again reduced to a peace footing. No imperialism in this living republic, no boasting after the battle, no stealing of reputations. No court martials or appeals for vindication in an army where every duty is so well performed. When the strength of the force of disease is less than that of the defenders, we get well, when the opposite obtains, we die. The great question of cure rests with the cells alone.

Then, what is the office of the physician? If the power to repel disease is inherent in the cells, why take medicine, why call upon the physician? Let me try to explain.

In the first place, these germs find their way into the system from the outside; through a wound; through the digestive tract, through the respiratory surfaces, etc. Once in the system, he can do little to combat them, but he can do much to prevent further absorptions. The intestinal antiseptic is no less sure in preventing absorption of the typhoid bacillus than is the knife in preventing the absorption of pus from an abscess cavity. When once the source of the invasion is known, much can be done to prevent inroads and to sustain the powers of life, looking to the cells themselves to make the great fight. The great physician is simply the man who best understands these little cells, and understanding them, conserves their powers.

A knowledge of the cellular structure and of the germ theory of disease makes scientific reasoning possible in medicine. True, we have men who do not believe in the germ origin of disease; we also have men who believe in witches and signs and wonders. These we will always have with us. Reason finds no place in the space which should be occupied by brains in some cases. The good Lord put such people among us, methinks, to make us thankful for the faculty of reason. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing with such people, as it is with all people. They no sooner see a means which is effective in one case, than they make it applicable to all cases. A narrow man is to be avoided on general principles. He is the one you will invariably find clinging to one of the isms of medicine. He will believe in massage as a cure for everything; or in the waters of some particular spring, or in some patent medicine, or some diabolical mixture supposed to have been originated by an Indian medicine man, or in some form of bath; or in suggestion or hypnotism, or mental therapeutics or Christian Science. He will agree with the homoeopath that the part of a thing is greater than the whole; that a drop of alcohol put into a