

## CURRENT EVENTS IN MEDICAL SCIENCE.\*

BY SIR JAMES GRANT, M.D., K.C.M.G., HONORARY PRESIDENT.

**A**T no time in this 20th century has greater advance been made in medical science, and for the relief of suffering humanity. Sir James Barr's presidential address to British Medical Association, Liverpool, asks the question, "What are we doing here, and is the world any happier for our presence?" True, we subsist on the misery of others, but we do not create misery, but relieve it. We cut the ground zealously from under our own feet, and actually do away with sources of personal revenue, chiefly in the line of prevention and alleviation of disease. Cuba of a few years ago, a pestilential centre from yellow fever, now entirely free, in that particular, the result of sanitary science. Panama Canal, abandoned by France in its construction owing to excessive death rate, from malarial influences, now entirely changed to a perfect state of health, by our profession, truly remarkable. So Ross counteracted goats milk influence as a cause of Mediterranean fever among British troops. The work of Almroth Wright, chiefly with pyogenic organisms, in typhoid fever, influenza, and pneumonia, is worthy of the highest commendation. Dr. Forbes Tulloch fell a victim to "sleeping sickness," the result of scientific enquiry in South Africa, and Turner, as the outcome of his heroic efforts in Rhodesia now suffering from leprosy. Such is the evidence of truly noble and philanthropic work on the part of the profession. Tropical medicine might well be established as a branch of study in Canada. So many of our graduates find their way into distant colonies of the Empire, where such information could be turned to practical account. New continents and a new departure in civilization has thus been opened up.

Professor Metchnikoff, "Institute Pasteur," Paris, recently addressed the National Health Society, London, surrounded by interviewers, asked the greatest message in contemporary science. Replied in regard to the plague, consumption, "I am confident that man will triumph over the minute plant that has assailed him." Above all,

---

\*Address to Medico-Chirurgical Society, Ottawa.