

lamentable thing that would have been! What a loss to human beings! No, the taste and faculty for research needs to be encouraged in a likely worker, even if the objects of his researches give no hope of immediate practical value.

Nevertheless you may fairly ask me whether I am not able to show something of value to practical medicine and surgery which has resulted from the money which the Association has devoted to science. Yes, I could give you several instances if I had time to do so, but one must suffice. In 1883, in consequence largely of an observation made by my old friend, Sir Felix Semon, the Clinical Society of London appointed a committee to consider the nature and relations of myxœdema. The work of the committee was divided into several parts, to which competent persons were assigned. The experimental part was chiefly under the charge of Professor Horsley. It was essential to the completion of the work of the committee but it was costly, and the Clinical Society had not made any grant towards it. This part might have fallen through, and the report of the committee might have been seriously prejudiced, and its value profoundly lessened. had not the Association come to the aid of the committee with a substantial grant, which was supplemented after an interval by further sums towards an inquiry into the physiology and pathology of the thyroid gland. To this work may be attributed thyroid-therapy and a wide knowledge of the relations of the thyroid gland to health and disease. And indirectly it may be said that this was the beginning of all the knowledge which has since been gained on the physiology and pathology of other of the ductless glands.

One matter to which the Association has largely contributed is the study of chloroform. Several committees have been appointed on this very important subject. The last committee has only just published its report.⁶ I have read it carefully through and have formed the opinion that the £700 which have been devoted to this committee is a very small sum in comparison with the practical value which the work of the committee is likely to have. At least £1,500 have been given to the various committees which have worked on this subject for the Association.

There is one grant which was made by the Scientific Grants Committee 18 years ago, and actually paid over to the applicant,