

influence the greater life of man for good or evil as to his physical existence. Still it does not detract from the genius of these great discoverers when we say that they only worked out and made manifest facts in the etiology of disease that were suspected by some observers and believed in by others many years before their names were known to the world.

There are two methods of investigation into the nature of disease which were carried out with much activity during the decade preceding the origin of the germ theory. I refer to clinical observation and the study of morbid anatomy. The labourers in these two great fields of research prepared the way for those who are now developing the newer fields of investigation. Close observation of disease at the bedside, carefully noting by eye, ear and touch the varying changes that accompany its progress, has been and is still a great factor in the growth of the science of medicine. And, again, to be able to observe the changes wrought by disease in an organ, in the *post-mortem* room, gives us positive knowledge. That which we believed, expected or conjectured at the bedside is made plain when the diseased organ or organs are under our eye and touch. It is to morbid anatomy that we owe our first positive and accurate knowledge of the nature of disease, and it soon became the groundwork of a rational system of therapeutics. Surrounded as we are to-day by the brilliancy of recent discovery in medicine, let us not forget to honour those great names of a preceding period who made clinical medicine and morbid anatomy their guide; and the student of medicine of to-day should be impressed with the idea that as the study of anatomy and physiology are the groundwork of the study of "life in health," so clinical work, combined with the study of morbid anatomy, will give him the only basis of an accurate knowledge of "life in disease." However, it is the addition to our knowledge, since we began to hear of the germ-theory, bacteria, sepsis and antiseptics, toxine and anti-toxine, and sero-therapy, that has caused the rapid strides that have led up to the height we have now reached. What has been done, then, that has let so much light into the dark places of our knowledge? What is it that has so increased and made accurate what was already known of the true nature of many of the most severe diseases? Two new departments of science adjunct to medicine have arisen within that time which have both changed and supplemented our methods of study—bacteriology and experimental pathology. Since these methods of research have come to our aid we have discovered the cause of disease.

Previous to the advent of these sciences upon the field of action,