

mysteries of disease, and to the discovery of means for its cure, amelioration or prevention.

Perhaps I cannot more profitably occupy the time at my disposal than by re-directing your attention, in as few words as possible, to some of the discoveries made within a comparatively recent period.

In the domain of medicine proper great advances have been made: a more accurate knowledge of the causes of disease, through the labors of the physiologist and pathologist, the introduction of new remedies and skilled nursing, greater attention to general hygiene, and a more intimate acquaintance with and greater reliance on the power of nature to heal and right herself, have revolutionized the practice of medicine and established it upon a more rational and satisfying basis.

Our time will not permit me to do more than barely mention a very few of the many triumphs of modern surgery. Sir James Paget, in a recent popular article on vivisection, incidentally alludes to an aneurism of the lower limb which was fatal in 95 out of a hundred cases before Hunter's time; now the mortality is reduced to less than ten per cent., so that Hunter was the means of saving innumerable lives by his discovery.

Of late years the introduction of anesthetics, of the bloodless method of Esmarch, and of the antiseptic treatment of Lister, with its various modifications, all having the same end in view, has shorn surgical operations of the greater part of the terror with which they used to be contemplated, whilst the mortality as compared with 30 years ago has been reduced by more than forty per cent., and this notwithstanding that operations are now daily and successfully performed which, by their magnitude and the importance of the organs involved, would have appalled the boldest surgeon of the last generation.

Spencer Wells has added hundreds of years to the lives of women by his own skill and dexterity. What has he effected by his example and teaching? And, although he perhaps takes the lead in his chosen specialty, scores are engaged in the same character of work, and many of them with a measure of success equal to his own.

And, lastly, that department of medicine which I have the honor and privilege to teach in this place has not lagged behind in the general advance; preventive medicine continues to hold its own. At the same time I would beg of this intelligent audience by no means to gauge its importance by

the manner in which its teachings and warnings are ignored, or even contemptuously treated by—well let us say some communities. It requires the possession of considerable intelligence and foresight to enable one to estimate fully the value of prevention. The man who has just recovered from a severe attack of a contagious disease will sometimes feel grateful for the skill and attention which have carried him through, whilst if he had been advised to have his house drains pulled to pieces, remodeled and repaired, and told that such action was positively necessary in order to preserve the health of the inmates of his dwelling, in many instances the man would regard his adviser as a weak and meddling alarmist. And as with the individual so with communities: a vast amount of infectious and contagious disease which devastates cities is preventible, and yet it is allowed to visit them periodically and claim its thousands of victims, although the method of preventing these visitations of fell disease and death is as apparent and common-sense as can well be. One would think that, from a purely commercial point of view, if from no other, prevention in the cases referred to would be better than cure.

Preventive medicine rests upon an accurate knowledge of the causes of disease, and the investigation of these causes by a few laborious enquirers has, within a few years, led to the most astounding results. Let me remind you of one example: It appears to have been demonstrated that, by a process of artificial cultivation, the microscopic carriers of the virulent poison of anthrax and some other kindred diseases, may be converted not only into harmless atoms but, when used at a certain stage by inoculation, may serve as a preventive to the invasion of these diseases or most favorably modify their action; and, still yet more extraordinary, that, by what may be termed a retrograde process of cultivation, the most innocent microphyte may be so altered in character as to become an agent for the carriage of virulent infection.

Believing, as I do, in the surpassing importance of preventive medicine, I feel a just pride in being able to say to-day that Bishop's School was the first in the Dominion—if not on this continent—to make hygiene a separate compulsory and branch of study in its medical curriculum.

Gentlemen, I am not here to-day either to vindicate our profession or to boast of its achievements. I have a very different end in view in rapidly