

day. Our blood and other corpuscles are microbes, their crums are factors in natural processes, and are regarded as healthy or unhealthy as they happen to be convenient or inconvenient at the moment of observation. Glands, such as the liver and kidney, are aggregations of microbes specialized for particular functions, and generate juices which are factors of nutrition, and not only of negative, but, as we have learned so well in respect of the thyroid, of positive influence in the balance of its manifold processes.

From experiment and observation we find that this reserve energy of the body in its various parts is enormous. How large is the view of the province of therapeutics thus presented to us we may see in the rapid advance of what I may call physiological remediation. As hygiene is to the state of health, so is physiological medicine to that of disease. By physiological medicine I mean the use of the ordinary functions of the body in counteraction of contingent or inherent perils.

It is a common, but I think a shallow reproach to modern medicine, that, with all the advance of our knowledge of pathology, therapeutics stands where it did in the time of our fathers, or has even fallen back, in so far as a certain sceptical distrust of empirical remedies has discouraged the continued use of remedies which the wisdom of our fathers has discovered by practice and observation. It is said that we will not use the most respectable of traditional remedies unless we have some notion of its mode of operation. It is possible that the invaluable work which a scientific scepticism has done for us, not in therapeutics only, has been attended by some destructive effects which are to be regretted. I think, however, it would be difficult to bring forward many instances of the kind in our own case; while, on the other hand, the pruning and clarifying which our practice has undergone, far outweigh any such temporary disablements. The truth is, that the cry itself is a shallow one. I will not stay to assert that modern surgery, the brilliant progress of which is in all our mouths, is progress in therapeutics, the division between surgery and medicine being a division of convenience, a division to which a mere practical and temporary usefulness only is to be attributed. Are we to forget, for instance, how the prognosis of peritonitis, of obstruction of the bowels, of pleuritic effusions, of encephalic tumors, of perityphlitis, of pelvic diseases, of ovarian ascites, etc.—a prognosis in troops of cases turned from sadness to hope—is not to be called progress in therapeutics because not infrequently the method is carried out by the skill of another hand? It might as well be asserted that the modern scheme of feeding in fevers, because it is carried out by trained nurses, is no therapeutical progress. Nor will