

and alleviating suffering as best he could. But now, under the use of cod-liver-oil, mineral acids, bitters and supporting nourishment, he no longer regards the disease as hopeless, and treats it looking for a cure; failing that, he confidently expects to prolong life. The experience and calculations of Dr. Williams justify the expectation, for he informs us that the average duration of life of phthisical patients has been extended from two years, the limit assigned by Laennec and Louis, to eight years. And he adds, that "in not very few cases, the disease is so permanently arrested, that it may be called *cured*." I may mention the treatment of oxaluria, phosphatic, and other diatheses indicated by the state of the urine, the use of iodine in goitre and other affections, iodide of potas in syphilis, gout, &c., bromide of potas, in epilepsy, &c., arsenic in many affections of the skin, the alkaline treatment of rheumatism, the successful use of nitrite of amyl in tetanus, and in angina pectoris, of hydrate of chloral as a narcotic, of quinine in acute lumbago, of drachm doses of tincture of henbane, with a little sulphate of magnesia three times a day in orchitis, of large doses of quinine in military surgery as a remedy for pyæmia; the banishment of scorbutus from our ships, &c. &c., also the vast improvement that has taken place of late years in the treatment of diseases of the womb and its appendages, and in diseases of the eye, I may refer to the use of atropia as a substitute for belladonna, and the calabar bean as a local application to contract the pupil.

Formerly all infantile diseases were considered by some as the results of febrile action, and treated as such, by others, as the results of weakness and treated with tonics and stimulants, and by a third class as the results of the irritation of worms and treated with anthelmintics. Modern investigators have proved that the different organs of the child are liable to nearly the same diseases as the adult, and should be treated accordingly.

The mortality of infants is still very large, but of late years it has greatly decreased. Towards the middle of the last century, 60 out of every 100 children born in London, died before they had reached their first year of age; but the mortality has steadily diminished, so that now, about 35 in every 100 die at that period. About 600,000 are born annually in Great Britain; of these 300,000 would have perished. Now about 200,000 die, thus showing a saving of at least 100,000 human beings a year. In New York the mortality is still very large; *one-third* of the children born, die in the first year, and one half before they have attained their fifth year of age. In Geneva, records have been kept since 1590, and it has been ascertained that a child has now five times greater chance of living to the age of twenty-one years than it had three centuries ago.