

were regarded merely as an adjunct to the therapeutic armamentarium, and were applied in the relief of conditions that were already well known and studied on established pathological lines. The second stage arose when, through the repeated performance of such operations, conditions that could be relieved by them came to be studied anew, fresh aspects of pathology opened up, and questions of precise diagnosis that had previously been academic problems of trivial interest now became urgent matters of life and death. A moment's reflection on the history of appendicitis will remind you of how little we knew of the pathology, the diagnosis or even the existence of the affection until the surgeon's knife shewed that it could be cured. We might in fact paraphrase the motto underlying British Imperialistic policy, to wit, that Trade follows the Flag, and say that in medicine Diagnosis follows Treatment.

Now in psycho-therapy most of the medical world is at present only entering on the first stage. That the medical world of America will definitely enter on this stage as a prelude to further advancement will, I trust, be one of the results of this afternoon's conference. In this stage we clearly recognise that we have secured a new therapeutic weapon of the utmost value, which we may describe as the capacity to alleviate certain complaints by purely mental measures, in other words as psycho-therapy in its broadest sense. Our attitude towards the nature of these complaints, however, remains in this stage substantially the same as it was when they were treated only by physical remedies. Hence we may see the strange picture of a physician removing by verbal suggestion a symptom which he considers is produced by a toxin circulating in the blood. However, a thoughtful person who employs any form of psycho-therapy soon realises that a symptom which can be removed by mental measures is in all probability of a mental nature. It may parenthetically be remarked that he further realises how the suffering endured by the patient, so far from being unreal, is all the more dreadful and formidable for having a mental and not