

world's history have there been so many scientists and individual workers engaged in investigating disease and wresting from Nature the secrets of *life and death, of health and disease.*

Great discoveries are not made off hand, but are the results very frequently of accident, when some great truth has been partially revealed and worked up step by step, painfully and slowly, until the final result is reached. In this way was circulation of the blood discovered and announced to the world by Harvey, so also was it the same with Jenner and his immortal discovery—vaccination. So we may go all the way down the pages of medical history where we will find that many of our great discoveries have been through accident. But the men in whose hands these accidents occurred, resulting in great discoveries, were men of keen observation, who reasoned closely keeping carefully in view two great facts, namely, *cause and effect.*

Louis Pasteur, the Great French Chemist, the father of the "Germ Theory of Life," in contradistinction to "Spontaneous Generation," proved beyond doubt, in 1862, that decomposition and putrefaction were the results of microscopical organisms.

But it remained for a son of Britain to apply this principle of the Germ Theory of Life to disease. In his hands then it became the "Germ Theory of Disease."

About 35 years ago, Joseph Lister, then Clinical Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, began his series of experiments which culminated later in Antiseptic Surgery and Medicine, which has done so much for suffering humanity and has completely revolutionized the field of medicine and medical teaching.

If we look back over the pages of history, particularly in our own calling, we will find that these innovations were not, at first, received by the profession and the public at large in the right spirit. They were subjected to a form of persecution and derision; probably, on the part of the profession, it was prompted through envy, and on the part of the public, through ignorance.

Harvey tells us that after the announcement of his discovery, his practice fell off mightily, so much was he slighted and neglected. So also did Jenner suffer through neglect. I can well remember with what derision Joseph Lister's antiseptic theory was greeted during the early part of his career in Antiseptic Surgery. This continued until the Germans—a race ever on the alert for hints indicating progression—saw merit in his theory and methods, took hold of his ideas and aided in the further elaboration and application of this most beneficent advancement in Medical Science.