

the perpetual grind of the practitioner's life would not be enriched and ennobled by the desire to help, to learn, and to give more than he receives, the best in him would perish and the basest element prevail. Knowing that the best in us is craving for more knowledge and new weapons to be used in our glorious war against death, I hope that what I have to say about as yet not officially recognized causes of ill-health will be read with interest and without antagonism.

There is living in Atlantic City, N.J., a man, who thirty years ago came before the medical profession with a new and far-reaching theory that functional diseases were the forerunners and causes of organic diseases and that the functional diseases were caused by entirely unsuspected irritants, amongst whom the eye was the most frequent cause. He proved his theory not only to his own satisfaction, but also to the satisfaction of numerous physicians and patients. But instead of taking up his claim and proving or disproving it by facts and experimentations, the official world neglected him, derided him or belittled him. The history of Semmelweiss and other discoverers of great truths repeated itself in this case. But fortunately this discoverer, Dr. Geo. M. Gould, was not only a genius, but also a philosopher, a superb writer, a born fighter and a successful practitioner. So he kept on hammering away at ignorance until at last he lives to see the tide turning his way; he lives to see that the leaven of his teachings begin to change the practice of medicine to the better. We begin to find it perfectly in accord with good physiologic and pathologic teachings, that long-continued irritation will cause pathologic changes in our organs. If we stimulate the gastric nerve the result would be a hypersecretion of the gastric juices; if we continued the stimulation for a long time a gastritis would follow; if the gastritis be not cured or relieved an organic change would result in the gastric wall with a whole train of pathologic sequelæ.

The same would hold good of any other organ. Sexual imaginings will bring about reflex hyperæmia of the prostatic glands or the ovaries, as the case may be. Long-continued and oft-repeated functional hyperæmias will finally cause an organic enlargement or inflammation of these glands, who on their part again would produce a variety of local or reflex symptoms.

It is on account of such experiences that Dr. H. A. Wilson wrote: "With the exception of the infectious diseases (not always then), the traumatic, and a few unimportant others, all organic disease is of functional origin. The rule of physiology is that no muscle or set of muscles can be innervated continuously for long. Whenever this too long innervation exists, physiology passes into pathology, until, finally, functional passes into organic pathology."

All this is especially true of the eye, because it is anatomically more