

would then be a result of a rod affected by more than one neighboring tone.

The function of the semi-circular canals is undetermined. That they exert an influence on equilibration, as in Menière's disease, seems true, as in all experiments the effects have apparently been

produced by fluid or other irritant reaching the brain (restiform body) through the aqueductus cochleæ, and acting directly thence. It has been held that they are concerned in analysing the direction of vibration, but this is purely hypothetical.

EDITORIALS.

SANTA CLAUS, THE PHYSICIAN.

"The Holy Supper is kept indeed,
In whatso we share with another's need,
Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself, with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbour, and me."
—Lowell's *Sir Launfal*.

SWEETLY rang in the Christmas morning, and many were the expectant faces of those throughout the wide realm of Christendom who, fondly dreaming in their fevered sleep and stretching out wasted hands to accept the gift of Santa Claus, awaked to find him present in the good Samaritan, watching the hectic on the wan cheek, while taking the rapid pulse. To how many during this Christmas season has the physician come as the good Samaritan, bringing with him the kindly-offered dose of professional skill and cheering words, the sweetest of all gifts, to the sufferer whose only wish is life: and to how many of our physicians, worn, weary, and often ill-rewarded

"An old bent man, worn out and frail,
He came back from a seeking the Holy Grail."

have the words come in the closing years of their lives of self-denying labors, as to Sir Launfal in search of the Holy Grail.

"Behold, it is here—this cup which thou
Didst fill at the sacrifice, for me but now!"

But the physician as Santa Claus may claim to such saintship not more for what he is than for what legend has always held him to be, the giver of good gifts received from the All Giver. From early times to recent years, to him and his work have been given a mysterious reverence, sometimes that of the astrologer, at other of the alchemist, but always of one dealing with the spiritual essence lying behind or immanent to the seeming dead and lifeless things of earth. From the herbs, the metals, the air, he distills the life-giving balm; and to-day to the many he comes as the life-bestower,

the Santa Claus; for with "Father Pumpkin" of the Arabian tale they still say, "Allah is Allah" in matters physical.

While all this, and much more may be said of the physician, yet, we take it, that to many of us, at this the beginning of 1888 *Anno Domini*, the intensely physical characters, which pure science is giving to Medicine, seem to be overlaying it with filmy coverings, in part sufficient to hide our profession as peculiarly one of charity. Some one says that wars are necessary to the development and maintenance of the highest qualities of manhood and virtue; and we gladly welcome the Yule-tide, if it but serve only to recall us from the dry, hard routine of experiment and practice, lest "pars n Holmes" and "Everard Hall" will have reason to talk.

"And there we held a talk
How all the old honor had from Christmas gone."

On this, the first New Year that MEDICAL SCIENCE has had the opportunity of wishing its readers the compliments of the season, we feel that they will excuse us for making use of the mellowing influences of the sentiments which yet linger around the opening of a new year, to bring before them the possibilities which the year has for us. If it be true that

"Never morning were
To evening, but some heart did break."

it is just as true that the profession has touched but the threshold of those powers for good which everywhere are a part of nature and which shall, yet more than in the past, make physicians benefactors of their kind. From the teachings and the labors of Science in the past, in the amelioration of the woes of mankind, in lessening the sufferings which sickness and the unfortunate conditions of life have brought upon society, and in the decrease of death-rates by sanitary improvements and advanced medical skill.