

being slowly but surely asphyxiated by the growth of the fatal membrane within the air-passages. Most of us in the past have met with such cases, and have stood by the bedside of the dying, deeply deploring our inability to afford relief. To-day, by the use of antitoxin, a remedy produced by the cultivation of the bacillus of diphtheria, we may approach these cases with much greater confidence than formerly, knowing that if the remedy be properly employed the results are frequently most brilliant; that we shall often attain to the highest aim of our profession—the saving of a human life—and occasionally even earn the everlasting gratitude of our patients.

The establishment of a school of topical medicine in the Mother-land, where those diseases not met with in temperate climates, but which play such havoc with the lives of Europeans who are compelled to pass their days in the lower latitudes, may be studied, and where medical men may fit themselves to cope with these foes, is a comparatively recent innovation, and one much to be commended.

But little is known of the etiology, or of the best methods of treating such maladies as yellow fever, jungle fever, coast fever, dengue, bubonic plague and leprosy; but the researches which are now being conducted by a devoted band of investigators who have taken their lives into their hands and are passing their days and nights in pestilential countries seeking knowledge, will of a certainty result in benefit to mankind, and are but one more sign of the progress of our great profession at the end of the nineteenth century.

In surgery the advances which have been made during the period referred to, possibly owing to the fact that the results are more readily appreciated, have been even more striking. The number and complexity of the operations performed to-day are almost bewildering.

The brain is no longer a terra-incognita—it has well-known paths and bye-ways to guide us in our operations. Large portions of the skull may be removed with impunity, and the brain itself explored for the removal of a foreign body, a tumor, or for the evacuation of an abscess. It is in abdominal surgery, however, that the greatest change has been wrought. Surgical cleanliness and asepticism are responsible for the unravelling of many a medical mystery, for the dispersal of many a surgical loup-garou. No longer do we look upon the abdominal cavity as a sort of holy ground to be approached only with awe and timidity. Laparotomies are of daily occurrence, and almost every organ of the abdominal cavity has been made to pay tribute to the surgeon.

Hysterectomy, ovariectomy, intestinal anastomoses, resections of portions of the stomach and intestines, excisions of