

fact it is impossible to overestimate the good that medical science has already done and may yet do for mankind in the ways mentioned ; in the ways, namely, of relieving suffering, curing disease, and, above all, preventing disease. This being the case, I have no doubt I shall astonish many of you when I say that it is my deliberate opinion that the way in which medical science has been, and is to be, of most value to the race has not yet been touched upon by me to-day, and remains still to be mentioned ; such, however, is my conviction. I believe that the general enlightenment which has come to the race through this great study has been of far more value to mankind than all the benefits I have recited. And I believe that it was well that man, being in all other respects constituted as he was, was created liable to accidents and diseases that he might be stimulated by these to the study of his own body and mind and of nature, in order that he might gain some knowledge of these diseases and the means by which they might be prevented, cured or relieved.

For man is naturally indolent, and unless he had been driven, as he was by the pain of disease and the fear of death, it is certain that he would have remained until to-day as ignorant of his own structure and nature as he was ten thousand years ago.

As I understand it, then, disease and death, and especially the fear of disease and death, have been and are good friends to man and not enemies as generally supposed ; for by them man has been driven to investigate the laws which govern his own life, as well as those which preside over universal nature. The immediate purpose of his study has been and is to defeat disease, and in this purpose he has been, as we have seen, largely successful. But by and through this same study he has achieved something far more valuable than that which he sought. He has achieved, namely, or is in process of achieving, the liberation of the human mind. For what does the study of medicine after all mean ? It means the study of man. But in order to understand man we must first understand his surroundings ; that is, the world in which he lives. The study of medicine, therefore, means the study of man and of all his surroundings, that is, of all things with which he is in relation ; in other words, the study of himself and all things