

revelations of organic chemistry as to processes which we were obliged at one time vaguely to attribute to vital force. We should indeed be disposed to regard the systems of animals as mere chemical laboratories, were it not that microscopical and physiological science had made equally rapid strides in the domain of life and organisation. Every fact, whether of health or disease, is now merely a link in long chains of chemical processes, and an element in groups of organic structures ranging from man to the humblest animalcule, and requiring a large extent of chemical, physical, physiological and zoological knowledge for its proper comprehension.

Again, modern science brings tribute to medicine in the vast array of apparatus and contrivances, mechanical, chemical, optical and electrical, made subservient to medical practice, and the student must be prepared to understand these appliances, and when called upon to act for himself, to judge as to their merits, without, on the one hand, being led away by an unthinking and ignorant enthusiasm in favour of every specious proposal or new contrivance, or, on the other hand, clinging to an equally ignorant conservatism and rejection of improvements.

Farther, medical art is related to the science of mind and to the laws of our common humanity. The low views of man that were once current can no longer be maintained; and the true physician who would rise to the ideal of his profession must not regard his patients as mere animal machines. In so doing he would reduce his profession to the level of farriery, and deprive it of the sympathy of humanity. He must regard the human body as the shrine of an immortal spirit, acted on by the condition of its complicated material organism and again reacting powerfully on this in all its various conditions of health or disease. Sound health is auxiliary to all that deserves the name of education, art, literature, science, morals or religion; and all these things react on health. Hence, it is in our day an important work of the medical profession to study and promote the great cause of sanitary science; and thus to strive to raise the struggling multitude from the slough of chronic unhealthiness into a condition in which there will be free scope for all that is noblest in humanity.

Nor will attention to these higher relations of medical art be without its immediate reward, for the public mind has now attained sufficient culture to detect and expose the failure of the professional man to appreciate his high vocation, and also to reward him who shows himself eminent in that which tends to prevent the evils which flesh is heir to, rather than to palliate or cure them when they have established themselves. Sanitary science will soon become a remunerative as well as an honourable part of medical acquirement. "It may," says Dr. Acland,