

In reference to the first of these advances, we still hear once in a while of aborting typhoid and pneumonia but only from the patient or the friends who have been impressed by the wonderful knowledge and ability of the attending physician. Much of the progress in this respect has been negative, in abandoning what was injurious, but in respect to the second point we can count a positive gain. The treatment of disease by climate has probably been practised from time immemorial but not to the extent and with the certainty that prevails now. The wisdom of adjusting our geography to our infirmities is obvious when it is clearly proven that different organs possess degrees of activity in different temperatures, and that different diseases prevail in different regions. To touch for a moment upon tuberculosis, much as we have learned of the intimate nature of this disease, we can no more deal directly with the organisms on which it depends than we could before they were discovered. The bacillus seems to be more resistant in structure and more tenacious of life than the tissues among which it lies. It is, however, open to us to prevent the further admission of the bacillus and to fortify the tissues against those already present. The treatment of tuberculosis by climate is not new. For over one hundred years pulmonary tuberculosis has been dealt with in this way, but not with the bold appeal for fresh air that is now heard. In 1815 the great Thomas Young formulated the desirable conditions as warmth and equability. Consumptives were therefore sent to low-lying sheltered spots or crowded into hospitals where these surroundings could be had. We still maintain that protection from catarrhal colds is essential; but we recognize what our forefathers did not,—the paramount importance of fresh air. As some one has stated it, "we make alliance with the powers of the air;" high altitudes, open expanses, with an open-air life, even tho' somewhat careless, accomplish what has never been obtained by simple protection from cold.

The third line of progress which I have mentioned is by far the most striking illustration of the change from empirical to scientific methods. We have learned to recognize and to isolate the essential principles of many diseases and processes and have achieved in the way of prevention and cure what our forefathers would have regarded as impossible. The great series of discover-