haps urged that extensive experience, by different persons, in different parts of the world, has proved that unusual success attends the treatment of wounds by the application of certain pastes or putties; and of bandages applied in a certain way with proper precaution, and caution.

Allow this to be granted, but it does not follow that it was by excluding the air, or germs in the air, from the wound. The fact is the course of treatment laid down according to Lister's plan all tends to secure those conditions, so essential for the due operations of Nature's laws. We have cleanliness first and last; we have unusual attention by assistants to watch for, and remove every untoward circumstance; we have rest, so necessary, of the parts by the mechanical presure of the paste and bandages; also, by the same means, pressure is made whereby effusion is prevented. In fact the parts are pressed together and retained in a state of *rest.* Congestion is thus limited, and the injured tissue placed in the most favorable condition for restoration to vitality. Yes, success does frequently attend the antiseptic treatment; but it is due to the circumstances attending that treatment. But the question remains, whether the same end could not be reached by far less complicated means and which are far less likely to fail, and, in failing lead to disaster. It is submitted that the antiseptic treatment proves beneficial by preventing the existence of, or of destroying the poisonous properties of putrifying organic matter arising from the body with which air germs have nothing to do. It is also submitted that this can be accomplished by means far more certain, far less troublesome, and will produce results far more satisfactory. It would occupy too much time and exceed the bounds of the object proposed in this paper, to point out at length the means to accomplish this. I cannot, however, omit speaking of the value of *pressure* as well as *position.* The drainage tube will often carry out fluid from the bottom of the wound but position of the body generally, and particularly of the part, will effect far more. Pressure generally by bandage is a most effective agency in squeezing out the fluid which is filling the spongy crushed tissue, so that healthy circulation of nutrient and reparative material may take place. While the softened tissue is filled with the products of passive congestion, of course the destruction of injured tissue is greater than when the position of the wound or other circumstances prevent a free drainage. It has been recommended with much sound argument, that the boggy tissue should be as it were drained by means of the knife.

Judiciously-made incisions will allow the noxious fluid to drain off and thus all the benefit of antiseptics will be obtained. Failing, however, by any means to effect necessary drainage, disinfectants should be used to prevent or destroy putrifying matter.

I will not pursue this subject further. My object, whether gained or not, has been to show that Nature possesses ability to heal, unaided, even the worst forms of wounds; and that while Art can render assistance, that assistance should be of a simple character, based on ordinary principles of natural philosophy, and guided by common sense, not on any visionary theory. In concluding my remarks I wish to speak of what I regard as the great agent for Repair. Some years ago in a publication, I advanced the theory that the principal purpose the fibrine of the blood served in the physical economy, was to heal tissue. This theory has been accepted by a number of writers. Limited in quantity, (a late writer says it is not present at all in the circulating blood in health) we find that when it is required, it rapidly increases in quantity and efficiency. Possessing limited vitality, it has yet sufficient power of organization to form a temporary, a pseudo tissue until the natural is reformed.

Incapable of perpetuating itself after it has become organized, it acts as a sort of scaffolding upon which the natural tissue is gradually built. Being used only for a temporary purpose does not lessen its value, for how could a building be erected without accessory means. Doubtless it is derived from the nutrient elements of the blood, but those elements have passed the period of maturity. They were at one time qualified to enter into the formation of natural tissue, but, not being used, they passed on to decline. Still, although with lessened vitality, they were well adapted to serve an important purpose in case of need, like refuse timber, which has been rejected in the construction of a building, it is quite suitable for the scaffolding. Such is fibrine.

President's Address Delivered at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the 4th, 5th and 6th August, 1875. By LE BARON BOTSFORD, M.D., L.R.C.S., EDIN., ST. JOHN, N.B.

GENTLEMEN,—In the order of business it is now my duty to address you on this our eighth anniversary. With one exception the Associa-