

he occupied this chair some years ago, and gave us a short account of many of the original members of the Society, will appreciate the fact that the Society has always been the meeting place of the leaders of the profession. In the revised copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society, which your Executive have prepared and which are now at your service, we thought it only fitting that the names of the twenty-eight original members should be retained. In the twenty-eight years that have elapsed since they founded the Society under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Workman, more than half of their number have joined the great majority, but several are still with us and take an active part in the work of the meetings.

It is twenty-one years since I entered the study of medicine, and observation during this time as well as the reading of the history of medicine of past ages fills one with pride in the achievements of our profession, and yet, and yet . . .

What fools these mortals be.

And any student of the history of medicine must be struck with the way that we tend to drift with every change of doctrine, so that the way in which any given disease is treated depends upon the time in which it occurs. At one period the fever-racked sufferer is starved almost or quite to death, or perchance is deprived of all fluids, while at another he may be fed to repletion or given water (to wash out the toxins) until he is like an Indian mussack. At the present day even, amongst the Musselmans, no food or drink is given during labor, and I once recorded the case of a poor woman, who had been eight days in labor before I saw her, and who during all that time had been allowed no drop of water or scrap of food. The weather was hot, even for India, and the child had been dead for days.

Or again, a poor creature is seized with bleeding from the lungs—bleed him still more say the practitioners of a certain age; perfuse the blood of a friend say others; give drugs to lower the blood pressure, and so on, all depending upon the treatment in vogue at the time.

Fortunately at the consultation is mother Nature, and whatever the other consultants agree upon, she will act as she has acted since the world began in such cases, and probably will save the patient, and yet get little credit for it.

The over-drugging of a hundred years ago led to Hannehman's swing in the opposite direction, with all its subsequent nonsensical elaborations. Perhaps now-a-days a scepticism towards well tried remedies is creeping in, especially in the German school, which will swing too far and do great harm.