

condition. While health is physiological adaptation to unusual condition. If the adaptability of the individual is not sufficient to meet the existing conditions then the individual must die.

The inflammation is a life manifestation of the organism in which it takes place. If we admit, as we have to admit, that the functions of life are wonderfully efficient in preserving the individual under normal as well as abnormal conditions, is it not peculiar that inflammation should be the only function which has a deleterious effect on the individual producing it. Is it reasonable to think that a condition so often produced in every life as it is should be the only suicidal process of which we know while all others are so evidently and efficiently directed to the preservation of the individual? Is it not probable that a species which shows suicidal tendencies in its vital functions would soon be extinct in this continued strife for existence and survival only of the fittest. Do not the remains of extinct species prove this. Is it not probable that a process so universally found in all higher forms of life and so often exhibited in the existence of each individual, as is inflammation, must be in a high degree for the best interests of the individual. Is it not probable that inflammation is nature's way of dealing with bacterial invasion. By a process of reasoning I think we are forced to admit this.

Now let us see if practical methods do not force us to the same conclusion. If we accept medical literature, and we have nothing more reliable to guide us onward, we learn that practical experience amply supports the conclusions arrived at.

Long lists of cases and histories are published by the best men in surgery reporting cases of large joints acutely septic, filled with pus and producing all the systemic poisoning that one is accustomed to see under such conditions, completely recover in two weeks with perfect function of the joint.

Large carbuncles frequently heal in ten days.

The much-dreaded Y-shaped plegmon of the tendon sheaths of the hand lose their sinister aspect and recover with intact tendons and perfect function in a remarkably short time.