

bacteriological methods of investigation have thrown much light on diseases of the skin, and have helped to place the study of dermatology on a scientific basis. Many new affections have been described, and many old ones have had to be re-classified. The parasitic diseases are becoming thoroughly known, and with the new means at our disposal for investigation, ringworm, favus, tinea versicolor and scabies are now fully understood—the first named, owing to the work of Sabourand and others, is now known not to be due to one and the same fungus, but to several different kinds.

Eczema seborrhœicum has been given to us by Unna, and Duhring has contributed Dermatitis herpetiformis. Then we have Raynaud's disease, myxœdema (Ord), angio-neurotic œdema, pityriasis rubra pilaris, parakeratosis variegata, porokeratosis, blastomycosis, and many others which I have not now time to even mention. Lupus, which formerly was classed under the new growths, is now placed under tuberculosis, though there is yet some difference of opinion as to the proper place of the erythematous variety.

Many new remedies have been introduced, such as chrysarobin for psoriasis, thyroid extract for myxœdema, and many new germicides, such as ichthyol, naphthol, salicylic acid, resorcin, etc., their name is legion. The X-rays and sunlight have been pressed into the therapeutic service, and animal extracts are as popular now as in the middle ages.

The advances within the last quarter of the 19th century, both in medicine and surgery, as well as in the special departments, have been marvellous. Could one of our confrères of the first quarter of the century come to life, he would imagine himself to be under an enchantment, and yet the present generation look upon these wonders unmoved, and take them as a matter of course. It is possible that the present century will see much greater marvels than the past, and that diseases which are now raging in our midst may be altogether abolished, for most are preventible.

It has been said that nearly all lethal diseases might be classed under three heads, the *Tuberculous*, the *Carcinomatous*, and those due to *Septic germs*. It is very possible that these diseases may be abolished by some antitoxin, and that syphilis, leprosy and diseases of that class, may be so controlled as in time to be abolished altogether, and then the occupation of the doctor will be gone, for people would only die from old age or from accident; a few surgeons would be required to treat the accidents which would continue to happen.

Such is the dream of the more Utopian members of our profession, and I might say with Hamlet, "It is a consummation devoutly to be wished."