

labours gave medicine a new and powerful impetus. His knowledge of the minute structure of parts was so much more profound than that of his predecessors, and his notions regarding their functions so ingenious, that for centuries after his death his followers simply accepted and believed all that he had said as though he had been an oracle.

But the progress which anatomy and physiology had thus made under Galen and his followers was doomed to be arrested. The struggling light of the lamp of science grew dim by reason of the thickening darkness of barbarism which set in, and more than a thousand years came and went ere further progress was made in the investigation of living things. Down through the dark ages as monks kept alive, but scarcely extended, the classical and mathematical lore of the ancients, so the practitioners of medicine, who were often, indeed, monks too, kept alive but did not extend the science of medicine.

The 15th century ushered in a new era. Learning revived, and with it medicine. But it was not till the discovery of the circulation by Harvey, 200 years ago, and the application of the Baconian inductive method in the investigation of vital phenomena by the great German Physiologist and Physician, Haller, that modern medicine began to assume its present shape. This brings me to the second head of my subject.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF MEDICINE.

The chief object of medicine as a science and an art being the *prevention, cure and mitigation* of disease, I will endeavour briefly to explain how it accomplishes these desirable results at the present time.

As regards the first of these objects, the prevention of disease, modern medical researches into the causes of disease have triumphantly shown that a large number are preventable by proper sanitary regulations, and the mortality of communities where such regulations are enforced is, as a consequence, greatly diminished. By way of illustrating the importance of preventive medicine, I will direct your attention to the following facts in connection with it. It is beyond question that the food we consume, the air we breathe, the soil on which we live and the water we drink have a marked influence on health. For example, sea scurvy is due to a diet deficient in fresh vegetables; chronic lead poisoning to the entrance of that metal into the system, either through the stomach in soft drinking water that has passed through leaden pipes or been kept in leaden cisterns, or through the skin or lungs in the case of painters or others whose occupations expose them to the noxious influence of the metal. Localized outbreaks of typhoid fever, diarrhoea and cholera, to the introduction of poison by water, although atmospheric conditions may also play an important part in their development.