

severs, a limb from a tree the wound soon becomes cauterized by the air. Unseen forces throw out a ring of new bark around the circumference of the wound, this ring growing wider and wider until the breach is finally closed. A patient refuses to have a frozen foot amputated. It dries, turns brown and shrivels. At the lower border of living tissue, a red line forms, the line of demarcation between the living and dead tissue. Little new loops of blood vessels grow out from the living ones. The dead vessels are plugged. The dead is gradually separated from the living until finally nature completes the amputation in her own way. But the stubborn patient has given months, instead of the moments he would have given had he allowed the Surgeon to imitate nature with the knife. If we watch the formation of a common boil on our patient's neck, and detect that the deadly poison has gained access to the circulation, he will die of blood poisoning. But ninety-nine times out of one hundred nature throws out a protecting wall or film of fibrin between the poison and the circulation, hence the patient recovers, while the one-hundredth dies with an abscess in the brain or elsewhere according to circumstances. Nature is constant being truth itself. Let us ever be mindful of the valuable hints which she affords and follow them up to a rational and logical conclusion, avoiding the invention of a beautiful theory and then distort the facts to fit it. It is seemingly clever, yet we injure ourselves and our noble profession, for we bar the path of progress and it may be some time before some-one with the requisite courage and brains will come along and explode it. True science is extremely simple, and the most learned man the plainest and most unprejudiced in word and deed. Nature adapts herself to altered conditions with marvelous readiness. If one organ is disabled, with a little assistance she will make another do its work. In our efforts in behalf of the sick let us aim to ascertain what nature is trying to do and why, and let our treatment conform to a certain extent, to the suggestions thus obtained, bearing in mind, however, that she is always lavish and may require a restraining hand. Thoughts such as nature inspires do not make men mean. Let us keep under her influence and I am sure we will not violate the true ethics of our profession. If we sometimes need the inspiration of a wider field let us look at the mountain, to the sea, or turn our telescope towards the heavens. Astronomers tell us that every diameter you add brings out new stars, and when we have become thoroughly acquainted with the life history of a star, we can figure out its relation to other stars for a thousand years. Every accession of knowledge leads us deeper into the mysteries of nature's book. From a