

of the past ten years' experience upon their therapeutic ideas. That all of us have been sobered by what we have gone through there can be but little doubt; the present status of the individual members concerning therapy would probably, however, vary through a whole series of gradations.

That one singularly devoid of the power and spirit of prophecy should be chosen to speak before this Association upon the future of therapy seems a dubious experiment, and I wish to assure you in the beginning that I shall have less to say of the actual future than of the past and of the indications of the present, so that my remarks may be regarded as materials for prophecy than as prophecy itself; the actual forecast will be left to you and I shall be glad if you will yourselves shoulder its responsibility.

The only means we have of judging what the future has in store is to review the history of the past and to form judgments concerning the present tendency or drift. The history of therapy is the history of medicine, for medicine began with therapy. It is not my purpose in the time allotted to me to undertake a recital of this history; I shall have to be content simply with an enumeration of epochs and perhaps a hint at the periods of progress.

Historians are gradually collecting for us the data concerning the earliest therapeutic efforts. The history of the earliest medicine shows of what a jumble these efforts consisted. With the dawn of intelligence the sympathy which was gradually evolved through the sense of pain led the primitive man to attempt to relieve the pain of his fellows. You recall the lines of a literary medical man :

“The hunt is o'er—the stone-armed spears have won ;
 Dead on the hillside lies the mastodon.
 Unmoved the warriors their wounded leave ;
 The world is young and has not learned to grieve.
 But one, a gentler sharer of the fray,
 Waits in the twilight of the westering day,

“Where 'neath his gaze a cave-man, hairy, grim,
 Groans out the anguish of his mangled limb.
 Caught in the net of thought the watcher kneels,
 With tender doubt the tortured member feels,
 And, first of men a healing thought to know,
 He finds his hand can check the life-blood's flow.”

Disease is as old as man—it is only the knowledge of disease that is recent. In the fiercer physical struggle for existence which must have characterized the life of our primitive forefathers, external wounds and manglings, as well as physical injuries due to exposure to the weather, to extremes of cold and heat, must have been common. Crude surgical procedures