

hospital administration. A good deal of our dispensary treatment is no sham at all, but is solid, efficient work. A great deal more is as futile as dipping up water with a sieve. The treatment of varicose ulcer, of many cases of eczema in children, or phthisis, diabetes, pelvic disease and neurasthenia are examples of what I mean by sham treatment.

For this state of things what remedies have we at our command? What reforms are to be suggested?

The reform has already begun—the old regime is already broken at a few points and as we look at those we can see how the victory is to be won all along the line. The whole dispensary problem hangs together and the methods of attacking it are essentially the same, but in only two diseases have these methods thus far been applied, namely, phthisis and the gastro-intestinal disturbances of children. The interest of the general public in checking infant mortality and in checking tuberculosis has penetrated some of our hospitals and revolutionized the treatment of these diseases in dispensaries.

The essential principle of this reform was first enunciated by Dr. J. H. Pratt, of Boston, in describing the work of the tuberculosis class started by him. "A large amount of time, money and intelligent interest devoted to a small number of patients instead of a small amount of these valuables expended on a large number of patients." Dr. Pratt was speaking of the cure of phthisis, but what he said applies as well to the treatment of cardiac, gastro-intestinal, nervous, and joint diseases. We have begun to take our dispensary problem seriously, starting as it happens, with tuberculosis. Sooner or later we shall take the whole of it seriously, and then we shall apply to the treatment of each large group of cases, each common disease, the same principles, the same methods, and the same energy.

The methods are essentially these:

- (1) A separate clinic, a separate day, hour, room, appliances, physician for each large group of cases.
- (2) A corps of nurses sufficient to visit each patient