

affection begins in later life the lesion is progressive, and life is only exceptionally prolonged beyond a few years. In the child the disease of the heart is inflammatory, and therefore self-limited; once arrested, the heart is cured except for the effects of the inflammation. All depends on how much the resulting scar interferes with the function of the heart, and how far that interference can be overcome by the compensatory hypertrophy of the cardiac muscle and the necessary dilatation of the cavity or cavities concerned. In later life, on the other hand, the disease is degenerative, and is not self-limited, but progressive, and when marked the end is not a great way off.

The large class of neuropathic cases have brought much discredit to us on account of our want of definite knowledge of their course and of the readiness with which they yield to the greatest variety of influences, often of the slightest degree. It is from this class that the adventurous quack gathers his followers, whether he belongs to the Christian Scientists, osteopaths, electricians, or the vendors of the multitudes of patent remedies which flood the market. We have been slow to learn that the psychical side of human nature has great influence on the physical. It is probable that all chronic deviations from the normal are greatly influenced in their course by the mental condition. We know that the renal secretion may be as greatly affected by emotional disturbances as can that of the lacrymal gland. Although not so easily proven, there is scarcely a doubt that the functions of other glands may be as much disturbed by the mental state. Within the last few weeks, in the case of a young woman showing symptoms of threatening vicarious menstruation, a luncheon that was vomited two hours after being taken was found barely acid, and contained no hydrochloric acid, while toast and tea given after the vomiting and syphoned in an hour, contained an excess of free hydrochloric acid.

Of all the diseases with which mankind is afflicted, there is none whose natural course we have more sadly failed to grasp than tuberculosis. The great prevalence of the disease and its enormous mortality have made the public very impatient with the defects of our knowledge of its cause, its course, and especially of its cure. The disease has been so closely canvassed that all our shortcomings have been subjected to the white heat of keenest criticism. The pathologists and physicians of more acute vision have been for generations teaching the curability of the disease, but the mass of the profession would not understand. It was not until outdoor treatment demonstrated the curability of tuberculosis, and its application was followed by the cure of