

practically cured by one or more of the various operations which have been devised for that purpose. Again extensive perineal lacerations are now repaired with almost uniform success, even though they involve the spineter ani and a part of the recto-vaginal septum. Emmet's operation for laceration of the cervix has always given excellent results both in relieving the suffering accompanying that condition, and also in preventing the growth of a carcinoma in the diseased part.

Turning now from the domain of surgery let us glance briefly at the progress which medicine has made in late years.

Standing out prominently we find the discovery of the germ theory of contagious diseases, and the more or less valuable results obtained from the study of their character, habits of life, mode of invasion, and their propagation in the human body. Although not as much success has been attained as we would like in the treatment of these germ diseases, still a good foundation has been laid and we hope that the future will yield an abundant harvest.

Our knowledge of many contagious diseases has been much increased by the discovery of the germs which produce them. Among these we may especially mention typhoid fever, diphtheria, tuberculosis, cholera, and the bubonic plague.

By a proper system of notification of diseases, and a careful investigation of the surroundings, together with an examination of the food and drink of the patients, we are often able to detect a cause for the occurrence of a typhoid epidemic, and by removing the cause bring the epidemic to an end.

Again, diphtheria has been robbed to a great extent of its terror through the use of antitoxic serum, manufactured by successive introductions of the virus into the blood of the horse. Although a few still have doubts as to the efficacy of this treatment, yet we think the good effects produced have been so universally attested to by competent and cautious observers that we can no longer fairly question them.

For many years before the discovery of the tubercle bacillus medical men were constantly disputing as to the identity of so-called scrofulous diseases and phthisis. Now, however, the matter has been forever set at rest by finding the bacillus present alike in all. And although the hopes once entertained from the use of Koch's tuberculin have not been realized, yet we think we have reason to expect that some similar but more effectual antidote will, before long, be discovered, for this widespread and serious disease. To former remedies for phthisis there has