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the senses having failed, mystery must be explained by mystery. Whoever has a rabbit foot tucked away in his clothing to protect him from disease and bring him good luck, quite unconsciously reflects a type of preventive medicine thought good in those times. To-day, there hover about the medical profession groups of monte-banks and fakirs who claim to cure or prevent disease by using fantastic methods. These are the professional descendants of the witch-charmers and dung-eating therapists of a fairly remote antiquity. Their methods are more modern and plausible, but their ignorance is equally profound. The old time medical plagiarist had often the sincerity of unattainable knowledge. The modern charlatan has the sophistry which distorts true knowledge and the avarice to turn the practice to monetary gain.

Throughout the long evolutionary process there were always outstanding searchers after the truth. The crumbling of civilizations and the social and political upheavals therefrom made some wide gaps between the torchbearers of medical knowledge, but they never lost sight of one another. Garnering the good, eliminating what experience proved useless, went on with a steadfastness and an erudition which showed that the greatest minds were bent to the task of plucking out the mysteries of disease. Hippocrates and his school laid down as fundamental the observation of phenomena and the study and interpretation of data, generalization and the building of principles from the process.

Thus began and thus grew the method of inductive reasoning to which science owes all it has. It is the proud boast of medicine that induction had its birth and its application in the minds and hands of men who were endeavouring to understand the ills that flesh seemed heir to, and bring their skill and intelligence to repair broken bodies, to save life and alleviate the sufferings of mankind. This work, begun four centuries before Christ, never lost its essential beauty. It was the medical Ark of the Covenant, and while the centuries have wrought many alterations in its structure, changed its appearance by many additions and embellishments, it harbours still the great soul of the healing art. Whispers may still be heard in such words as Sir Astley Cooper's: Nothing is known in our profession by guess; study of data from whatever source available, and wise interpretation, are the only true basis of legitimate theory or justifiable action.

Evolutionary processes waste no time watching the clock. It is a long call from Hippocrates to Pasteur and Lister—about twenty-three centuries. But the latter were offsprings of the Hippocratic system, appearing perhaps long after the time was

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ripe. Their coming was inevitable, if tardy. They were not the sons of the bond-woman, but of the free parents of scientific endeavour; and they changed the whole outlook of medicine and the human race. They found disease to be for the most part the result of the efforts of the lower forms of animal life to destroy the higher ones. Man's intelligence had subdued the visible brute creation, but till now had no knowledge of the invisible. Pasteur plodding steadfastly on, experiment after experiment, began to weave a net about the hidden foe and, with the aid of the much improved microscope, gradually decoyed him into the field of vision. Human eyes then looked for the first time on the germs of disease. The old masters' dicta of observation and experiment were justified at last. A great truth had been born to the world, which would be to all the people. Lister followed up with the application of the new discovery to surgery. One disease after another yielded its causative germ to the prying eyes of investigation. The list is a long one, and the end is not yet. A great department of biological science arose from this discovery, and the saving of human life is quite beyond reckoning. Lord Moynihan estimates that Lister's and Pasteur's discoveries have saved more lives than "all the wars of all the ages have thrown away." Late in coming, this great truth was pursued through the centuries. Observation on communicable diseases brought scientific men close to the secret. The pillar of light through the long shadows was observation and investigation. Often dimmed, entirely lost sometimes, it reappeared again as some new discovery or invention brought encouragement and inspiration. Even what we now know as preventive medicine began to assume some form before the little army of microbes was marched up to defend and stabilize it. These efforts in prevention of disease were necessarily weak on account of the lack of essential knowledge of the malady itself. This was evident in the futile attempts made to stem the tide of the plagues which more than once overran Europe. Some fairly good sanitation was practised, however, wherever general intelligence prevailed, and even among the Israelites, who were not noted for scientific achievement, we find the health laws laid down by Moses during the exodus are models in many ways of sanitary common sense. Probably his previous attainments in the wisdom of the Egyptians served him well in guarding the health of a whole nation on a forty-year march. Compared to the work of Lister and Pasteur, however, all the discoveries and advancement preceding were

.....but seed,
Of what in them is flower and fruit.

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