

pared with that of other great departments of knowledge ; and, second, that this slow rate of progress is due to the absorption of all abler intellects in the routine of private practice and their consequent neglect of original research.

The progress of medicine has never been rapid, though it is the most ancient of all sciences. Its progress followed two main directions ; first, that of the theorizing school which endeavoured to bring all phenomena of disease under a few wide generalizations and far-reaching formulæ ; and, secondly, the empirical school, which sought remedies for certain ailments without regard to the rationale of their methods. Now most of the ancient theories about the constitution of the body and the action of remedies have proved to be false, but some of the old empirical rules regarding treatment are permanently useful. Hippocrates' teaching concerning food, exercise and diet is correct, even in the light of the most advanced modern ledge. This explains why the Baconian philosophy and the adoption of habits of systematic observation and induction which revolutionized the progress of the physical sciences did so little for medical science. In fact, medical science owes more to empirical observation than is generally admitted. But the creation of special conditions favourable to observation, "varying the circumstances," to apply the logical "method of differences," is much restricted. So any analogy between the progress of medicine and of the physical sciences is misleading. Any science which deals with life cannot hope to rival in completeness the science of the non-living. The element of life, so mysterious, so subtle, so persuasive, so potent and so elusive, increases the difficulty beyond calculation, and the factor of disease adds further manifold difficulties. When the philosopher has determined the nature of life and mind, and where the influence of each begins and ends, medical science may solve some of its more difficult problems.

It is, however, only reasonable to expect that a fair share of medical intellect should be devoted to original research, but this end can only be secured by state endowment or private benevolence. It seems expedient and desirable that the state should at least undertake the scientific investigation into the origin and cause of disease. Men capable and desirous of