

uncertainty. The clearer light which we are now looking for with hopeful expectancy will, perchance, scatter the shadows which other heralded panaceas have created.

The influence on the nervous system from the administration of desiccated thyroid glands has, during the past year, led to some very interesting observations on the effect of thyroid feeding in some forms of insanity. Some very instructive cases have been published by Bruce, of Edinburgh, in which some of the results have been as gratifying as they have been astonishing. The effect in some of the cases has kindled a hope that we may be about to see the fulfilment of the result anticipated and expressed by Clouston, when he said: "I think we shall some day be able to inoculate a septic poison and get a safe and manageable counter-irritant and fever, and so get the 'alterative' effect of such things, and the reaction and stimulus to nutrition that follows febrile attacks." Certainly, psychological literature is full of the records of cases which made good recoveries after suffering from exanthemata, carbuncles, erysipelas, and inflammations generally. If the effects of thyroid feeding prove of lasting benefit, there is certainly an excellent field in which to prove its usefulness.

Professional interest has recently been considerably awakened in the subject of auto-intoxication. Putrefactive processes in the intestinal canal and the development of physiological and pathological alkaloids play an important part in many diseased processes until lately unknown or misunderstood. The pathological chemist has vied with the bacteriologist in demonstrating to us the efficacy of intestinal antiseptics.

In the field of surgery the growth and development of the science of bacteriology has practically worked such a revolution that to-day no young practitioner is regarded as thoroughly equipped for surgical work who is not something of an expert bacteriologist. Surgical pathology was never more zealously or successfully cultivated. Therapeutic surgery is, along the line of antiseptics, making rapid advancement, and rendering more sure the work of the knife. Operative surgery is adding one brilliant success to another, and commands the admiration of the world to a degree never before attained.

Perhaps none too soon are we able to detect, as we most assuredly are, the strong conservatism in the surgery of the female pelvic organs. Man's pelvic extremity is now perhaps in greater danger than woman's. It remains to be seen whether recent suggestions for the cure of the enlarged prostate will prove as successful in results as they now appear heroic. Brain surgery is claiming large attention, and a degree of progress is being attained which is, year by year, adding to the triumphs of the art. In whatever direction the surgeon may look to-day the prospect is gratifying, and, with due regard to the caution gleaned from experience, he may justly be animated to strive for still wider achievements.