

through the centuries, traditions filled with superstition, with occultism and mysticism.

The ancient Egyptians with little knowledge of scientific medicine may be forgiven for seeking a cure for disease at the Temple of Isis; the Orientals, with their atmosphere of mysticism, may be pardoned for their worship of the magic and occult; we may excuse the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon of mediaeval times for their credulous adherence to the alchemy of Paracelsus. Nor is it a matter of wonderment that Mesmer's house was thronged with seekers after health by means of magnetism and the "universal fluid" at a time when scientific medicine was advancing by leaps and bounds.

But what are we to say of the modern physician, the modern clinician and teacher, who look with equanimity upon the inroads of charlatanism upon scientific medicine, who fail to stem the tide of illegitimate practice, who watch with apathy the success of occult methods, and who see the failures of their consultants made conspicuous through the success of those engaged in the practice of mystic arts.

Nor can we, after all, deny that in the methods of modern occultism there lies a fundamental germ of truth, the understanding of human nature, the domination of personality over personality—the treatment of the individual rather than of the disease.

In general practice to-day far less time is devoted to the study of personality, temperament, character, or disposition, than to the detection of organic lesions and focal disease.

*Etiology.*—The etiology of psychopathic change presents many problems of intense interest. Is it physical in origin, or is the factor chiefly psychic? If physical, is it anatomical, bio-chemical, or molecular? To what extent is the Mierzejewski effect worthy of consideration, I mean the disharmonious development of gray and white matter (gray being in excess), by means of which the commissural system is thought to be deficient? And again, what about the so-called "normal-looking" brain of the feeble-minded? Is there such a thing as functional feeble-mindedness? Are the psycho-neuroses merely discords played upon good instruments? as Southard asks. Consider, with Fernald, all the problems that associate themselves with mental disease: developmental mechanics, glandular dysfunction, unequal development of organs, dislocation of cells, their premature pigmentation, the effects of alcohol, of syphilis, of heredity, and we see how far-reaching may be the effects of the physical on mental processes.

Most striking of all the newer research is that concerning the association of the glands of internal secretion with mental disturbance, and the effects of glandular therapy. The remarkable observations of