

to be the trend of the best scientific thought of to-day that all diseases are due to a specific germ, and in that case our therapeutics and materia medica will require to undergo a decided change, as our therapeutics and present knowledge of materia medica as to the cure of disease must yet be classed as somewhat empirical and is hardly up to the time. If the physician had been able to keep pace with the surgeon (remember I am not saying that the ground for discovery was as easily traversed) in discovering remedies, that he could have obtained by internal therapeutics anything like similar results which the modern surgeon has obtained by means of external antiseptics, then the practice of medicine might rank well as an exact science, but until then with those who believe in the bacteriological theory as to the cause and origin of disease it must remain open to empiricism.

Formerly, the cause of tetanus was supposed to be due to some abnormal condition of the nerves and their peripheral centres. During the past few years bacteriologists have been able to fully demonstrate that tetanus is a germ disease, therefore little need be said as to its cause—bodily injuries of any kind, from the slightest to the most severe, which are exposed and open to inoculation of the tetanic germ or bacilli. Formerly it was considered that injuries to the palmer surface of either the foot or hand near the thumb or great toe, was more susceptible to producing tetanus than any other part of the body or limbs. But that could be easily accounted for, as those parts are the most exposed to dirt or dust, the propagating grounds for the tetanus bacilli. The only affection which tetanus might be confounded with would be hysteria and strychnine poisoning. The former by close observation could readily be discerned; the latter is somewhat similar, only strychnine poisoning the spasms being somewhat tonic, but only lasting for a short time, with complete relaxation between. In traumatic tetanus the spasms are tonic in every sense. It is a disease which consists in an almost continuous rigid contraction of the involuntary muscles without but little relaxation or alteration. It is also characterized by closing of the jaws. According to statistics, tetanus is one of the most fatal maladies. The tetanus germ is one of the deadliest known, spreads rapidly, and generally with fatal results. All the writers on the subject which I have had a chance to peruse agree that few cases of traumatic tetanus recover.

The morbid anatomy and pathology of tetanus seems to have been very obscure, as the results of post-mortem of patients who have died from tetanus have been very unsatisfactory. Tetanus, like hydrophobia, seems to be a specific constitutional disease, occurring without any appreciable local signs or symptoms, and whether the great mortality in this disease is due to the presence