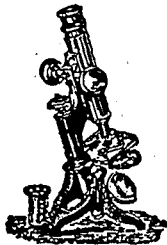


## Medical Matters.

### SCIENCE IN ITS APPLICATION TO NATIONAL HEALTH.



It is interesting, as illustrating the lines upon which medical science is being directed at the present time to note that the Address of the President of the British Medical Association, Dr. Henry Davy, F.R.C.P., at the recent Annual Meeting of the Association, at Exeter, dealt not with any form of disease and its treatment, but with the maintenance of health. This Address, which is published in full in the *British Medical Journal*, will repay careful study, and should be widely read. Incidentally, it is worthy of note that the higher the standard of national health attained by the observance of hygienic laws discovered and promulgated by the medical profession, the less does the public require the services of that profession, so that the greater its success in raising the standard of health, the less is its own material reward. It should not be past the wit of man to devise some means whereby the financial rewards attainable by those whose attention is concentrated on the prevention of disease should be at least as great as those of the distinguished physicians and surgeons whose skill enables them to cure or alleviate it.

Dr. Davy, in his most interesting address, said: "It would be well if, in these days, people could be made to understand thoroughly that the cultivation of health is the first necessity of useful lives, and if they strove to attain it as the first object of their solicitude; if they recollected that the chief and best asset of a nation is the number of healthy individuals it contains; and if they would also recognise the great principle that no educational system is good which does not aim at producing well-developed, healthy bodies, as well as well-trained minds.

"Darwin shows 'that the only way to keep any organ or structure in health is by proper and adequate use thereof,' and I think that the value of this axiom has not been sufficiently recognised in considering the question of physical deterioration and its remedy, especially as it affects the muscular system.

"Physical culture is in my opinion one of the most pressing questions of the day, for it is by it alone that we have a proper remedy for the state of muscular degeneration which is so prevalent. It ought to be considered by every educational authority, for by its use

dwellers in city and country alike can have their muscular systems built up and developed to a healthy standard. There is no need that any collection of children who are not diseased should become a class of muscular degenerates.

"Next to this question of physical culture, and of equal importance, is the question of the feeding of the people, and it is one of the problems on which we, as teachers of the science of the day, ought to have much to say. 'Food,' says Dr. Eichholz in his evidence before the Committee, 'is the point upon which turns the whole problem of degeneracy,' and no one who reads the Report of the Committee on Physical Degeneracy can doubt that the ignorance of people in relation to this matter is truly lamentable.

"I know of nothing more worthy of the attention of this great Association, and of its powerful organ in the press than that duty of pressing on the statesmen of the day the need for making elementary physiology and hygiene a compulsory part of the education of all the children in this country."

#### ACCURACY OF THOUGHT

Dr. W. Hale White, Senior Physician to Guy's Hospital, who delivered the Address on Medicine, chose for his subject "A Plea for Accuracy of Thought in Medicine." The point is one to which the attention of nurses, as well as that of the medical profession, may usefully be directed. In their work it is their duty to report to the physician or surgeon in charge of the case on the symptoms and condition of the patient between his visits. Reporting, to be exact, must be based on clear and accurate thought and observation. These qualities, therefore, should be conscientiously cultivated by every nurse. The report which she makes may determine the line of treatment decided upon, and it is thus of the utmost importance that she should state exactly what she sees, not what she thinks she ought to see.

#### THE CONTAGION OF CANCER IN HUMAN BEINGS: AUTO INOCULATION.

The Address in Surgery was delivered by Mr. H. T. Butlin, F.R.C.S., D.C.L., on the above subject. In the course of his interesting Address, Mr. Butlin gave details of 15 cases of auto-inoculation of cancer, undoubted or apparent. He thinks that the evidence of auto-intoxication is conclusive, and regards it as preparatory to the study of the communicability of cancer from one human being to another, a subject which he now proposes to investigate. He believes such cases to be very rare.

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