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IS DISEASE MAKING ITS LAST STAND AGAINST SCIENCE?

New Century's Wonderful Strides in Medicine and Surgery

GRIM and earnest is a battle that is being waged day by day and hour by hour—a battle of intensest purpose, of more moment than any of the conflicts carried on by nation against nation. It is the battle of modern Science against Disease.

On the one hand, a subtle, invisible agency, wreaking destruction by forces more potent than arms—legions and legions of germs sweeping among nations of men like devastating foes; on the other hand, pitted against these powerful factors, a mere handful, comparatively speaking, of scientists, surgeons and physicians—a noble band of men who are

devoting days and nights and clear, trained brains to devising means of defense and successful warfare against the enemies of the human race.

For centuries deadly agents of human woe—disease germs—remained undiscovered and, unhindered, carried on a fearful and destructive foray.

But Science has begun a determined battle; like a knight fighting some hideous dragon of supernatural powers, it has followed the disease germ to its lair, wrenched from it the secret of its existence, and has contrived wonderful antitoxins for its destruction.

There are on record perilous risks taken and marvelous feats accomplished. Even the heart, that delicate organ of life, is now operated upon, taken from the body and washed or sewn with silver wire, while life has been restored in those apparently dead, according to an eminent physician, by a massage of the vital organ.

As a result of the discovery of the action of disease germs and the effect of antitoxins," declared Dr. H. Burton Stevenson, of Baltimore county, Md., recently, "man's allotted three-score years and ten will soon cease to be a myth. Twentieth century medicine will make disease a harmless indisposition and death by accident or old age the only order of the day. Surgery, electro-therapy and Roentgen rays are daily demonstrating the fact that

hitherto unconquerable diseases are yielding to treatment and serum-therapy, the glittering dream of generations gone, is becoming a reality."

What does medicine and surgery promise? Nothing less than a life free from sickness and pain, longevity ending only by accident as the alternative to a wornout physique.

Will science fail? Not if the promise of years comes true. Medical and surgical science within the last two decades has undergone a remarkable change; new light has been shed on mysterious maladies and inexplicable symptoms of disease; incredible, wonderful discoveries have been made.

In surgery, particularly, there have been astonishing results—the more daring the operations, the more risky the trail of the thin blade as it cuts the quivering flesh, the greater has been the success.

Such advances have been made, even, that a prominent surgeon, Dr. B. M. Ricketts, of Cincinnati, has declared that there are cases where life can be restored after death by a manipulation of the heart.

Before a meeting of the American Medical Association in Boston last year Dr. Ricketts declared that he witnessed the resuscitation of a person, who had been dead apparently twenty minutes, through massage of the heart.

Of twenty-five dogs that had been chloroformed, in experiments along this line, until their hearts had ceased to beat, 75 per cent. revived when the breasts were opened and the hearts squeezed about sixty times to the minute.

Dr. Ricketts declared that of thirty-nine men who had been operated upon for cardiac stimulation, twelve recovered permanently.

"The heart has actually been stimulated to action one or two days after death," declared Dr. Ricketts, "yet one or two minutes after the cessation of heartbeats is time enough to justify a physician in opening the chest and squeezing the heart, much as one would a sponge, to re-

new its action.

"The class of cases in which this manipulation of the heart to renew life is especially applicable is where ether or chloroform has been administered, where there has been an inhalation of illuminating or other such gas, in cases of shock from fright, injury or surgical operation, drowning, electrocution, strangulation, loss of blood, or probably in many cases of the use of drugs."

Last December Dr. Green, a surgeon in the Hospital for Children, at Bristol, England, opened the breast of a boy twenty-five minutes after he had apparently died from the effects of chloroform administered before an operation.

Grasping the heart, the doctor squeezed it seventy times to the minute, continuing this for two minutes. Gradually the heart began to flutter; artificial respiration was applied and within a short period after the restoration of the pulse natural respiration was established. The boy died twenty hours after the operation.

Fifty feet of wire were recently coiled about the interior of a blood vessel of the heart of a patient in the Medico-Chi Hospital in Philadelphia. The patient suffered from an-

eurism. The coil was placed into the vessel to form a framework on which the blood could coagulate with the hope that the clot would grow into a new tissue by the time the aneurism should burst.

The heart of C. W. McCartney, a contractor of Los Angeles, whose breast had been pierced by a rake in an automobile accident, was lifted from the body and grains of sand washed from it.

To a physician of 100 years ago the commonplace of surgery of today, such as the suturing of wounds of the heart, would seem marvels. According to a dispatch from London, by the employment of the X-ray and cinematograph, moving pictures showing the heart pouring blood through the body and the action of the breathing lungs have been obtained. These pictures, physicians say, will prove invaluable in diagnosing cases and illustrating lectures to students.

When the principles of antiseptic surgery were first adopted surgeons opened the abdomen with hesitation; they gasped at the thought of opening the heart. Since then the scope has broadened, every abdominal viscus can be treated surgically. Formerly cranial surgery restricted itself to trephining; now the removal of the contents of an abscess of the brain excites little more than passing interest among physicians.

After an accident to his head, Timothy Kane, of New York, developed lesion of the brain; he lost all sense of distinction, suffered from motor aphasia and loss of speech. At the Bellevue Hospital two and one-half inches of his skull were removed, the pressure relieved, and he recovered from epilepsy.

Later his afflictions returned, and portions of his brain were removed. There was another relapse, and the physicians removed part of the skull and operated on the brain. Since then the man has been slowly regaining his senses.

A remarkable operation was reported at a meeting of a medical society in Vienna recently. Dr. Zirm announced that he had transplanted the cornea from one man's eye to another.

A patient who suffered from ulcers lost sight of both eyes. By chance the surgeon took out the eye of an 11-year-old boy. The eye had been injured by a steel splinter, but the cornea was intact. Cutting strips in the opaque corners of the blind man's eyes, the doctor inserted pieces from the eye of the boy. In one eye the experiment failed, but in the other sight was restored.

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