

footsteps have attained. Your journey henceforth shall be more joyous, for you shall see the route by which the summit shall be reached. The path, moreover, shall lead to beauties with which you were never before familiar. Nature exhibited in a variety of wondrous aspects: now astonishing you by the height and massiveness of her primeval rocks, and anon luring you by the exquisite minuteness of her glacial flowers. Amid all your arduous work you shall have time to cultivate the æsthetical side of your nature, and to worship and reverence the bountiful Creator of all things. Your guides, from past experience, are conscious of dangers of which they would in all earnestness warn you. They remember many of whom it might be said, "Ye did run well: what hath hindered you?" Some started briskly, but got languid on the journey; they had never practised themselves to effort of any kind before; they strayed behind, were lost. They might have succeeded well in valley labour, and in more humble pursuits have made themselves useful in their day; but they undertook an expedition for which they were not suited, and perished in the attempt. They remember others who started with every promise of a brilliant ascent, who had all the possibilities of a successful career, who were swift of foot and expert of limb, but who wandered out of the beaten track, and searched for gems and flowers in deep gorges and sequestered nooks; anon they would rest and take their fill of pleasure, trusting to their instinct to reach their fellow-travellers by some short cut. But the lost ground was not to be so readily made up, and they were to be seen seeking for refuge in some miserable chalet half up the mountain, while their less gifted friends attained the hospice on the summit. They remember others who had come from loving friends, with all the hopes of widowed mother and the blessings of sympathizing sisterhood, for whom relatives had scraped together all that they could spare, and had even debarred themselves to supply the wallet and provide the necessities of the route; but who wandered away from their guides, chasing some gay butterfly over ice slopes that made one shudder at the venture. The homestead heard the daily prayer for a successful journey to their loved one. The guides used all their influence to enforce the danger of the pursuit; they told of dreadful catastrophes that had happened, and would surely happen again. They remember how their expostulations were disregarded; the merry laugh at the slow; the preference for perilous paths and treacherous transits for the glory of the prismatic colours and cerulean blue of the fissured ice. They were in their own estimation too sure of foot for danger; but, alas! the slippery surface, true to itself, led to their downfall, and the echoing chasm told to the wayfarers of the life that had been lost. The guides remember, however, other than doleful tales and miserable failures. They preserve fresh in their memories the names of some of the companions of their own first ascent; of others who, before and since, have scaled the difficulties, and are now far away from leading strings, making explorations where no human foot has been; ascending higher and yet higher, with no assistance of chart, for their toil is in order to provide one; who are daily collecting facts and recording observations; who are permeating mankind with their thinkings; who are carving their names in enduring characters, and are spending, and being spent, for the glory of God and the good of man. Let these animate you. Let the student's life which you commence to-day be a fitting prelude to your work beyond the stage of pupilage, and the higher life hereafter. Let it be characterized by all that is earnest, true, and noble. Let it be honest, despising all seeming in lieu of reality. Let it be gentle, blossoming with kindly acts and genial sympathies. Let it be generous, crediting to the full the goodness of your fellows, and hesitating to sully their fair fame. Let it be brave, meeting trials with fortitude, and sharing the burden of others. Let it be wise, redeeming the time, and adding knowledge with increase of days.

I have already furnished you with the formula to aid you in the solution of your problem, the secret that will command success, the talismanic charm which turns everything into gold, the potent spell at which all difficulties vanish. It is earnest and persistent work. Let it be supplemented by a gentle, Christian life; terminated by a peaceful, hopeful death.

#### ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

MR. TOYNBEE'S INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

THE lecturer began by referring to the many subjects of interest which suggest themselves to the mind of the medical practitioner as he reviews his professional experience, and which might serve as the theme of such a discourse as the pre-

sent. But, he said, he passed them all by for one which, to men engaged in practical medical life, must be of greater interest than any—the philosophy, or, as he preferred to call it, the *significance* of disease. By this term he meant the end or object which diseases served in reference to the animal economy. And he should endeavour to maintain the position that disease was in all cases, not a destructive, but essentially a reparative process, illustrating his argument by cases drawn exclusively from his own (the aural) department of surgery. He combated the current views on this subject which regard diseases as a process the tendency of which is to injure the frame; and, referring to the words of Hunter, set out with the proposition that every disease is preceded by some injury, that the disease is essentially a process tending to repair that injury, and that its object is to reinstate the normal condition. Even in cases in which its result is fatal, the tendency of the disease is to repair injury, though, owing to the circumstances present, it may take a form or affect an organ that renders it destructive to life; for the injury may be either local or general, or both, and a local injury may bring about an attempt to remedy a general one in a way that fatally involves a vital organ. Thus an injury to the meatus of the ear in a healthy man induces a disease—*inflammation and suppuration*—which repairs the damage; but even a less injury to the same part in a person labouring under the poison of gout (a general injury) may bring on a more intense and widespread inflammation, which involves the brain, and issues in death. But this more extensive inflammation is equally an attempt to repair an injury—the general injury of gout. If the inflammation occur in a less vital organ, say the ball of the great toe, its character as relieving the system—as repairing its general injury—is recognised. Many more examples were given, with illustrations of the principles and mode of practice which this view of the nature and meaning of disease enjoined. The lecturer concluded in the following words:—

"I cannot but think that if the view of the 'philosophy of disease' indicated—barely indicated—to-day, has a foundation in truth, it may, in some respects at least, be more acceptable to the human mind than is the view commonly entertained. To my own mind, at any rate, the thought is not acceptable that God, having given to man life with its marvellous attributes, sends disease for the purpose of taking that life away. No! I cling rather to the belief that man, placed on this wonderful globe to battle with and to live by its elements, finds it his destiny, as he struggles upwards in ignorance and in weakness, to encounter difficulty upon difficulty, to suffer injury after injury; that although to endure injuries is thus the inevitable lot of man, still in disease is found at once a warning of the presence of an injury and at least an effort towards a remedy. And because man, in the great battle of life, is oftentimes so deeply injured as to be beyond the possibility of a cure by either nature or art, still let him not repine; for even sickness has its blessings and its hopes, and through its trials and its sorrows is held the sacred boon of life. So, too, when our spirits are cast down by the sad amount of misery inseparable from disease, let us take heart from the conviction that even our limited ken must recognise beneficence in it; and, further, let us trust confidently that as each succeeding generation of mankind learns better how to live, how to gain the good of life without encountering its injuries, so will disease become less necessary and will diminish in the land."

#### MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE BY DR. GREENHOW.

THE lecturer said that the occasion which had brought together an audience comprising so many different classes of men—old and young, professional and non-professional, veteran and recruit—could scarcely be considered other than an important and interesting one. Interesting it must be, from some point of view, to all who had given their attendance there that evening; and important it certainly was to many, whether they recognised it or not, for it was no less than the inauguration of a new year of labour and study—a new year which was of vital importance, not for itself only, nor for what might be done or left undone in it, but for the influence which the habits formed or encouraged during its lapse could not fail to have on their future lives. The address which had become matter of established custom on these occasions presented peculiar difficulties, on account of the impossibility of adapting it to all the various classes of so mixed an audience. The object which had