

ARIZONA SENTINEL Yuma Southwest

Established November 1870 by Jan. M. Barney and Judge Wm. J. Berry. Purchased 1876 by John W. Dorrington, who relinquished to W. H. Shorey on July 1, 1911. Published for 44 years without missing an issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Per Year, \$2.00
Entered at Yuma, Yuma county, Arizona, as second class mail.
Published Thursdays.

CORRELATED INVESTIGATIONS CONQUER DISEASE

The victories which medical science has won over disease have in very few instances, if ever, been decided by a lucky chance. Only by utilizing the accumulated knowledge of centuries and all the information available from his contemporaries, has the investigator been enabled to make significant discoveries leading to the cure or prevention of disease.

Contributions to the medical science of today come from the most diverse sources. The physical chemist determines one fact, the pathologist another, the economist and a host of other specialists, make and record their observations and the interpretations which they place upon them. These discoveries must stand trial at the hands of contemporary workers along the same lines. If they stand the test, they become incorporated into a working hypothesis to be applied practically until new discoveries show it to be false in fact or interpretation, or place it in a new light where its application may be different.

Thus in the case of the disease which we know as malaria (meaning "bad air"), the original observations that the disease prevailed in the swampy regions, and tended to die out when the region was cultivated and improved, have stood the test of time and still stand as facts. The interpretation, however, that the disease was due to poisonous air arising from the damp swamps, has been totally disproved. The fact is now well established that malaria is carried by certain mosquitoes which breed in the swamps. Preventive measures based on this fact are, therefore, definite and pur-

posive, and are being widely and successfully employed.

The literature in which observations bearing on medical subjects are reported and thrashed out is of such enormous volume that no one mind can compass it. Even with the aid of periodicals which attempt to collect and classify this literature in the form of abstracts, the worker in one single branch of a medical specialty is hard pushed to keep abreast of his subject. It is like a fusillade of bullets directed against our common enemy, "Disease." If many a bullet misses the mark, it is nevertheless true that now and then some do hit it squarely. Disease is slowly but surely being pushed back from trench to trench, and ultimate victory is only a matter of time, perseverance and concerted action.

In Hygienic Laboratory Bulletin No. 101, the U. S. Public Health Service publishes an article entitled "Complement Fixation in Tuberculosis," which neither in title nor in text can be expected to be intelligible to the layman. It is a summary of what has been done up to the present time in developing a test of the blood serum of persons and animals afflicted with tuberculosis, and it is believed that it will be of value to hospital and laboratory workers in tuberculosis who may not have time or opportunity to investigate the status of the subject for themselves.

The methods of applying the tests have varied much with different workers, and the results have consequently not been entirely in harmony, although a strong tendency toward agreement in fundamentals is noted in the more recent articles. The tests are found to be highly specific, that is not to react with healthy and non-tuberculous persons, and to be comparatively free from the objection to some other tests, that they react with persons who at some time have had tuberculosis but have recovered from it. This article will have fulfilled its purpose if it shall assist in directing some of the bullets of the big campaign against disease toward the spot where they will do the most good.

FINER THOUGHTS

No man can afford to be anything less than his best.

It is the soul of man behind the will that determines his destiny, "I will"—"I will not."

The love of money is the root of so many kinds of evil that few men get rich without paying more for their money than it is worth.

A sleeping conscience is more dangerous than a roaring lion.

Riches not by right are always in the end a blighting curse to their possessor.

An ounce of consistent life is worth a ton of profession without it.

We may inherit capacity from our ancestors, but character is wrought out in the furnace of a man's own life.

The decrepitude of age is a close relation to the follies of youth.

Every wrong act leaves a structural weakness in a man's character.

There is nothing like an outlawed debt to test the genuineness of a man's religion.

Wealth laid up in character is beyond comparison more valuable than money laid up in the vault.

Great reforms begin in the hearts of some reformers.

The greatest thing in the world is love—not money.

The testimony of the lips must be indorsed by the testimony of the life or words are wasted breath.

True economy has no stinginess in it.

No amount of money is worth a single lie or one act of injustice, dishonesty or oppression.

Peace is not dependent on the storms and calms at the surface.

Before investing in the devil's promises carefully examine the collateral behind them.

The way to the pit is hedged about with all the obstacles infinite love can suggest and yet leave man a free moral chooser.

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