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A B O U T H E A L T H

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MEDICINE

Originally employed to denote substances used to cure or alleviate disease, medicine has now come to mean everything that has to do with disease including both its causes and its effects. It also includes all that mass of interests and information that in any way promotes the attainment, preservation, or practice of health. Since life and living include both health and disease and since disease and death are just as normal (natural) as health and life, medicine, in the broad sense covers everything in which humanity is or can be interested. It has no science properly called its own but in its study and practice appropriates any and all science to its use. It is thus so all inclusive that hundreds of energetic lives are spent in exploring its various fields or aspects without, in any case, exhausting their respective possibilities. One of the things that makes the study of medicine attractive to the serious minded student is the fact that after a little basic work, he may go anywhere and do anything he likes and still be in the field of medicine,--still "belong".

One of the vagaries of medicine is that everything from dandelion (bitter stomachic tonic) to horn scrapings (for propping up ingrown toe nails) has been used to treat disease and one of its glories is that they could and would be used again if, in the judgment of the directing mind, any help could be thus attained.

One should not think of only doctors and nurses as being interested in medicine. They are relatively a few of those who are or should be interested in disease. When economists discuss the actual or possible increase of wealth, they speak of health and the ability and willingness of people to work normally as being the basic material from which wealth may be made. Farsighted industrialists are keenly alive to the prevention of the loss of "man hours", "labor days" or whatever they happen to be calling the reduction of wealth producing potential by the failure of health. Sociologists teach that the problem of poverty cannot be solved without also doing something about the matter of health. Perhaps the militarists have the most practical, the most earnest, and the most constant interest in medicine thus far found anywhere!! This largely explains the tremendous advancement made in medicine during every great war. The ill themselves have some interest in medicine, disease, and recovery with emphasis sometimes on one, sometimes on another. For some of them, their lack of health is a sort of capital stock from which they make a living or attain other desirable end. The beggar's sores and deformities and a spoiled daughter's hysteria suggest themselves as examples. There are others interested in medicine, so many as to be practically all inclusive..

For study and discussion, the field of medicine may be divided into two great parts, clinical and preventive. Clinical medicine has to do with the sick whether they are in bed or not and preventive medicine has to do with protecting the well. Originally, practically all medical study and medical effort was