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Rapidly fatal diseases naturally attracted the first attention of those medical discoverers who sought to prevent death by removing its proximate or secondary causes, and public recognition of those efforts has tended to print their names upon the memory of succeeding generations. When Jenner proclaimed the efficacy of vaccination, and thus showed how hundreds of thousands of deaths could be prevented, he was hailed as a benefactor to mankind. Similarly those who have attacked the problems presented by such diseases as cholera and phthisis have attained a widespread and enduring fame. But there is another phase of original medical research which does not aim at combating any fell pestilence, and yet which, on the whole, has, perhaps, been the means of obviating a greater amount of human suffering and bodily weakness than even the discoveries relating to terrible maladies like smallpox. It is appropriate, therefore, that such men as the late Professor Meyer and Dr. Gottstein should have their eminent services recognised in the address of a specialist like Dr. Hamilton. In tracing out the origin of unsuspected diseases of the nose and throat these investigators have been the means of unmasking most insidious enemies of the human race — enemies which do not usually kill the sufferer outright, but which follow him up remorselessly, sapping his strength at the very sources of his daily nutrition, impairing the value of his work, rendering him liable to unjust charges of laziness or incapacity, and finally, perhaps, laying him open to the attack of some swifter malady, which, more merciful than the other, administers to him the ultimate stroke of death.

It was by immediately appreciating and utilizing the invention of an outsider that these specialists in nasal and throat diseases were enabled to pursue their studies to a successful issue. Manuel Garcia is not a physician, but a teacher of singing, and he devised the laryngoscope in order to

facilitate that method of throat-training which has revolutionized the vocal art. In the same way it is almost universally felt that, through the use of the Röntgen photography, the medical profession are on the eve of some most important advances in the therapeutic science, and Professor Bragg with his lucid explanations and clear demonstration was particularly welcome on Thursday. In another direction the attention of local members of the profession is now fixed upon the Children's Hospital, where, through the enlightened action of the Board of

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Management; a special department has been formed for the study and promotion of the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria. It is lamentable to reflect that on account of the action of the Government at the Adelaide Hospital the foremost of our local surgeons and physicians are debarred from carrying into that institution the benefits of their most recent acquirements. The attitude taken up by these gentlemen has subjected them to the grossest and most cruel misrepresentation. They have been charged with being actuated by political motives, with being lacking in humanity, and—most outrageous calumny of all—have been accused of trying to usurp the functions of the Executive. The truth is that from first to last the honorary staff showed that their sole desire was to promote the interests of the Hospital and maintain it in the enviable condition of efficiency into which largely through their efforts it had been brought. Their communications with the Ministry were characterized by the utmost courtesy; they gave reasons for the position they assumed, and did their utmost to remove the difficulties which stood in the way of arrangements which, in their judgment, were indispensable to the continued wellbeing of the institution. They recognised, as they were bound to do, that the general power rested with the Government if it chose to exercise it; but they staked their official existence—risked their continuance in positions which they cherished—in order to promote the maintenance of wholesome discipline. To speak of such men as these as political hacks, self-seeking agitators, and persecutors of the weak, and to represent their action as an attempt to subvert the principles of constitutional government, is as ridiculous as it is contemptible. It is only fair to add that our criticisms are not in any way intended to apply to the references made to the dispute in the Legislative Council. As a rule the

speeches there have been models of moderation and fairness, and in this category must certainly be included the address of the Chief Secretary.

Dr. Hamilton shows no affectation of indifference to the loss which the profession and the institution, but especially the latter, have sustained through the severance of the long and honourable connection of the Association with the Hospital. Indeed he frankly admits that many of the late honorary staff held their appointments very dear, and