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Not How Long, Doctor, But How Well.

"Discussing the medicine of the future, Dr. Crile expressed regret that the march of life expectancy from twenty years to fifty-eight years had halted there. Declaring this to be the principal problem which confronts medical science and the individual today, he said the causes of the greatest number of diseases which affect adults are infections and emotions.

"We should be concerned with the control of ourselves," said the Cleveland surgeon, "for man cannot fear, he cannot hate, he cannot worry intellectually - he does these things with all his organs. There is not one group of phenomena for the acute fear of the president of a bank in a financial crash and another for the criminal who suddenly faces the naked probability of the penitentiary, or one for the patient who unexpectedly finds he has a cancer, or for the mother who watches over the child whose life hangs in the balance, or for the hunter when he shoots his first big game. Nature has but one means of response, and whatever the cause the phenomena are always the same - they are always physical."

-- The Chicago Tribune, on the A.C. of S.

Keeping in mind that Dr. Crile is the author of the "electro-mechanistic theory of life," we are going to need a very large grain of salt to pass over certain propositions here laid down. We must take it on faith, for instance, that a man who is only a soul-less mechanism can control his emotions when he has no free will with which to control them; and having faced many a penitentiary without any reaction of the adrenal glands we must take Dr. Crile's word for it that the convict's organic worry is without any intellectual comprehension of the meaning of "twenty years." We swallow these things cum salis grano because Dr. Crile does not mind being inconsistent.

But Dr. Crile and the rest of the mechanists should not "express regret" at the increase of worry; that is too faint an apology from the men who have contributed so much to this increase, and consequently to the shortening of life which it brings. When you take away God and the soul, and make material things the sum of man's ambitions, why shouldn't one worry when he faces ruin? By contributing to the spread of materialism, Dr. Crile has helped to take away from his followers that source of serenity in physical evil which sustains the man who stops to "consider the lilies of the field." Worry is not such a common ailment in the homes of Christ's poor, of those who can say with Job: "The Lord hath given, the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."

No, Doctor, it isn't how long you live, but how well. You will have that fact impressed upon you some time in the not very distant future. You have looked at man only through incisions for so long that you can't see the whole man - only diseased organs. A general practitioner would have seen more; he sometimes even sees the soul. A distinguished member of your profession, Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf, in an address to the Society of Medical Jurisprudence, Nov. 13, 1922, gave you the following food for thought:

"Those of us who have witnessed many death-bed scenes will long since have abandoned the medical student's conception of death. To many of the young followers of Aesculapius, the dissecting room is the last resting place of many and would be the finishing episode of the existence of all of us if we should have no one to take care of our 'mortal coil.' The great physician-poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, was once approached by one of his students during a lecture in the dissecting room with the following query: 'Dr. Holmes, if there is such a thing as a soul, please show me its location.' The great anatomist's reply was, 'Only a fool will look for the soul with a knife.'"

PRATERS: Fred Barstow underwent an operation for appendicitis last evening. George Stach's mother and father were injured Tuesday in an auto accident. Tom Lufton's grandmother died last week.