

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1901.

THE EMBRYOLOGICAL BASIS OF  
PATHOLOGY.\*

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EMBRYOLOGY is the basis upon which pathological science must be erected. Pathology is even more a superstructure upon embryology than is anatomy. Anatomy, in its descriptive form, may stand by itself and have usefulness. Pathology cannot be built up as a merely descriptive science. It fails of its true purpose unless it discovers the causes of diseases. Now since function is dependent on structure, the aim of the pathologist must be first to discover the causes of morbid structure. In brief, pathology at the present time deals chiefly with problems of the development of anatomical forms. Pathology and embryology might almost be united in a single comprehensive study—morphogeny. Let us then try, for this evening at least, to free ourselves from the conception of an essential difference between normal and abnormal structure, a conception which, I believe, domineers too largely over our daily thoughts. This belief of mine I hope to justify to-night.

Simple description is indispensable, it furnishes the virgin facts; but facts do not develop by parthenogenesis into science; they must be saturated with the stimulus of study, with the stimulus of knowledge of their history, their antecedents, their causation, then we may see them evolving

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended or review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

\* The Middleton Goldsmith lecture delivered before the New York Pathological Society, March 26, 1901.