

seeks out and follows with close and unremitting attention rare and, so-called, "interesting" forms of disease—spends hours investigating anomalous physical signs, and delivers lectures which can only be appreciated by the student far advanced in a knowledge of the theory and practice of medicine. Whilst the beds filled with those affected by diseases of common occurrence, and which the young practitioner will be first called upon to treat, are passed by hurriedly, without scarcely a word of explanation or comment. To the foreign visitor who may have completed his preliminary studies, this is doubtless all very agreeable and highly instructive, but to the first or second year's student, eager to acquire knowledge, it must, of necessity, be tedious and disheartening. Eventually, however, the student assimilates in his views to the professor. We have heard, times and again, the older students say one to the other as they passed through the wards "Oh, that is *only* a case of ulcer—that is *only* a case of simple rheumatism, &c.;" and they have hurried forward to examine a patient the subject of internal aneurism, incurable heart affection, or some form of malignant disease. The consequences of this erroneous estimate of what ought to be paramount in clinical instruction are, that when the young physician enters on practice, he finds himself hampered on every side through his ignorance of some of the more common diseases which affect mankind, and he has to commence, with few facilities, the study of subjects which he was too apt to regard as scarcely worth attention during his novitiate, but an intimate acquaintance with which, he now discovers, is absolutely necessary to his becoming an accomplished and successful practitioner.

Whether we consider rheumatism as to the frequency of its occurrence the great pain by which it is accompanied, or the sad, irretrievable and sometimes immediately fatal complications which are liable to make their appearance at any time during its course, it is a disease which demands the earnest study of all who practice the healing art. Although unnoticed by the ancients, it has attracted considerable attention amongst the moderns, and a great diversity of opinion has existed, and still exists, regarding its nature and treatment. Baynard, who was one of the earliest writers on rheumatism, attributed it to a *materies morbi* existing in the blood; and this matter, he believed, consisted of an accumulation of certain ingredients which should have been eliminated from the system, by the kidneys and skin. Boerhaave and Van Swieten held a similar opinion. Stoll looked upon it as an inflammation of the vessels, through which circulated colourless blood. Sir C. Scudamore conceived "the morbid action to be seated in the ligaments, the tendons, the aponeurotic membranes, and the bursæ, but in the ligaments most