

## A MODEL MEDICAL STAFF FOR A MODERN GENERAL HOSPITAL

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The general hospitals of most great cities still are staffed on the same ancient and old-fashioned methods that were suitable when the actual amount of specialized knowledge was very little and undeveloped. As a result to-day, with the exception of one or two famous hospitals, very little satisfactory work is being done, and the patients themselves receive only the ordinary treatment, which they might as well obtain from a well-versed general practitioner.

The question as to whether these general hospitals in the large cities are allied to a teaching university has little to do with this condition, for one and all should be endeavoring to increase the medical knowledge of the age and to give their patients the best and most modern treatment.

With the enormous amount of new material constantly being added to the annals of medicine, it is utterly impossible for any ordinary man to successfully accomplish the feat of understanding each division, and one sees in our midst much specialization in many lines, while, curious to say, it is wholly neglected in the staff formation of most, if not all, of the general hospitals.

Truly along the eye, and the ear, the throat and nose, gynecology and obstetrics and several surgical divisions, the specialist is found and separated by the hospital surgeons, but along the line of medicine, despite the fact that the chest, the abdomie, the cardiac and the nerve specialist are more or less definitely designated among the city practitioners, yet in the staffs of our large general hospitals only the skilled general practitioner has any place, and he is wholly unsuited to advance the science of medicine or to keep up-to-date on all the sides and subjects included in that science.

The reason for this lies in the fact, preached over and over again, that to be a successful and skilled practitioner, capable of being a chief in a hospital, it is absolutely necessary that a physician should be skilled in all branches of general medicine and not made narrow in his views or developed into a poor diagnostician by commencing at once or soon after graduation the study of a medical specialty.

This important fact is true and well known, and it is necessary therefore to include it as the basis of construction in a general hospital staff, while at the same time there must be some method of arriving at the specialist position as the culminating object both