

This aspect of clinical progress is dealt with in a masterly way in a paper by James Mackenzie, published in the *British Medical Journal*, January 3rd, 1914, and which should be read by everyone, especially by our younger men, who frequently undervalue the opportunities which general practice affords for scientific study. Coming from one, himself a general practitioner, who has probably done as much as any other physician of our time to apply scientific methods to the elucidation of important practical questions, his words are worthy of our earnest attention. He says: "The general practitioner must be recognized as an essential adjunct in research. To him especially we should look to find out the early stages of disease and its progress. Hitherto the lack of this assistance has been the cause of the tardy advance of medicine."

There is no essential reason for lack of harmony in work of aim among the different branches of our profession. Friction means dissipation of energy and lessened efficiency. Mutual support, sympathy and co-operation are essential to success.

In the fight against disease, we represent different sections of one great organization, each with all-important duties—the laboratory worker and experimenter, devising and proving new implements and methods, the hospital clinicians and specialists bringing forward that which is new, and best—withstands the test of application—thus keeping open the communications with the men on the firing line, the great body of practitioners, on whose training and efficiency after all victory ultimately depends. Our students are the recruits, who must be imbued with the proper spirit and trained to take their places in the ranks depleted by the casualties of service and by the falling out of the veterans.

At the time of the International Medical Congress last year, a London paper in an editorial on "Our Friend the Doctor," expresses a layman's point of view in these appreciative words: "The discoveries of Lister, Pasteur, Metchnikoff and Ross—to name only a few—constitute an epic worthy of a Homer. The slow dragging of her secrets from nature, the discovery of the thousand unsuspected agents through which she works, is a fascinating study to those who understand it. The laboratory is the arsenal from which the hand of the physician and surgeon is armed. But it is the wise, experienced, tender man, the first to be called, and the last, too often, to be paid, of whom we common folk are thinking when we speak of 'the doctor.'"

Every intelligent medical man appreciates the indebtedness of modern practice to laboratory men, and disparaging remarks regarding the value of their work reveal the weakness of the critic more than of the object of his criticism.

On the other hand, practitioners generally will approve of Miltzer's candid criticism of a fortunately rare type of scientific prig, who affects