

stillness of the dreamy past. You should always be able to do the best for your patients, warranted by the state of science at the time. The man who stops reading or learning anything more will soon be left behind the age,—he will fall into a slipshod routine style of practice, never seeing his way to a clear diagnosis and ringing interminable changes on a few irrepressible remedies. As time rolls by such a one grows more and more jejune, more and more impotent, and may at length sink to the level of that old prince of asses who, when asked if he believed in phrenology, replied, “I never keep it,” (he meant in his surgery,) “and I never use it, but I think it is highly probable that if given frequently and in liberal doses it may be useful in irregular gout.” Remember too that the medical practitioner must always have his knowledge available. Called upon in emergencies where to do either nothing or the wrong thing is to lose life, he must draw upon the resources he has,—he cannot run home or to a friend’s to find out what is needed,—the blood will not staunch its wasteful flow from the wound, nor the poison cease its destructive work till he returns.

Medicine is not yet perfect. It may be your lot to enlarge her boundaries. Beyond you is a wilderness, which in some part you may succeed in reclaiming. Go forth resolved not to be entirely dependent upon others, but to cull for yourselves. Go forth to contribute something to the previous stock of information. Keep short notes of the cases seen,—compare one with another,—tabulate the same kind together, and draw such inferences as the data warrant. To win the laurels of originality it is necessary to be diligent in experimental inquiries, to institute deep researches, to make right applications, and to use superior observations. It is through such channels that the additions to our science are to be discovered. It is in these ways that within the past few years so many valuable remedies have been found out, as pilocarpine, chrysophanic acid, salicylic acid, amyl nitrite, chloral and its compounds. In these ways have been obtained so many recent aids to the detection of obscure forms of disease,—aids such as the thermometer, sphygmograph, laryngoscope, ophthalmoscope, electric current, and ether spray. And in these