

ocular centres were never intended to be mere wayside store-houses out of which the same thoughts should pass again, but rather to be switchboards, flashing the impressions on to the psychic laboratories, whose functions are to discover and interpret these impressions as they come, and then stamp them with personality and send them forth again to delight others and to increase the common fund of knowledge. It does not necessarily follow that the work of each one of us will equal in importance that of a Harvey, a Hunter, a Jenner, or a Lister, but it should represent the best that the opportunities of our age, our experience and our mental endowments can produce.

So much for the intrinsic worth and character of a paper, and now a few words about the form and manner of its presentation. An instrument may have considerable value in its design, but be of such poor workmanship that its worth is seriously impaired. In like manner, a paper may show much originality of thought and yet be so carelessly arranged and so poorly read that its real merit is lost to the audience. The writer of a paper should take under his "most careful consideration" the fact that an audience has only a limited amount of time and energy to spend on any one paper, and so should be extremely conservative of both. The scope of his subject should be clearly outlined in title and headings, and the language concise and technical. He should exercise all his elocutionary powers, the tone of voice being made pleasant and the pitch such as to be easily heard by all present. It is the speaker's duty to make himself heard, not the duty of the audience to have to strain their attention to hear him. How can one expect an audience to be interested in his subject when he buries his face in his paper and mutters away to himself? Papers should be of no greater length than is necessary to present the subject intelligently. It is as bad to overfeed an audience as it is to overfeed a baby. Too long a paper causes a wave of anguish to sweep over the faces of those who have to listen, and also a constant shifting of positions in order that they may be able to endure the affliction and mitigate their suffering as much as possible.

#### THE DISCUSSIONS.

These, like the papers, should bear the impress of the speaker. It is well to be able to quote authorities, but better still if able to qualify them from personal experience. This by no means excludes the younger members from taking part in the discussions; for how often it happens in earlier years that cases are met which furnish an experience rarely, if ever, duplicated. The youngest member may thus be able to contribute something of as great value to the society as the old veteran can, and, if you will allow a slight digression here, I