

It has seemed to me that Medical Societies, which in these later days have become almost universal, ranging from the humble Society of the small town to the great International Congresses, are perhaps a protest, implied rather than impressed, against this obstacle and represent a desire to minimize, so far as possible, its hindrance to progress.

By means of the gathering together of medical men in meetings such as this, an attempt is made to obtain a record of the experience of members, as it is built up from day to day. To seize the passing observation, the occasional experiment, the rare case, the failure, the success 'ere they are whirled into the past and numbered among forgotten things.

Here also may be heard those personal impressions at to this or that mode of treatment, or as to the use of such an instrument or the other drug; impressions, the result of insensible weighing of for and against, which, though lacking the apparent exactness of the percentage and statistical method, are none the less of great value.

Our neighbour's skill is all his own; of it we may not take. We must develop in the same school of constant application, unless, perchance, a favouring Providence has endowed us at birth with the "tactus eruditus." But out of the fulness of his experience we may learn, and there is no better way of getting such benefit than by attending the meetings of the Medical Society.

We cannot in the nature of things, all of us, all the time, sit at the feet of the Medical Prophets of the day; even the most receptive mind cannot only receive, and hope to thrive. Nor, on the other hand, is it necessary in these days to preach the doctrine of the "strenuous life." Action is indeed necessary, so also is acquisition. We require, in fact, a school to which we can constantly recur, to see, to hear, to compare, to argue; in the main, to acquire something and to advance. Where, for the General Practitioner, the rank and file of our profession, so fortunately situated, perhaps, that "two or three may gather together," where can he find these wants so adequately, so easily filled, as at the meetings of Societies such as ours. Here, in deed, the man of maturer years may "exchange old lamps for new," keeping to some extent in