

It is that which ought to and which no doubt does interest us most. And if we endeavor to avail ourselves of our opportunities, some as hospital and others as private practitioners, we may contribute many valuable facts to the science and art of medicine, as well as render ourselves abler and more successful practitioners.

We are too apt to think that the physicians and surgeons of hospitals have much better opportunities of studying disease than private practitioners, and that from them should come the most valuable additions to our knowledge of disease and treatment. But while this may be partially true of *acute medical* and both *acute and chronic surgical* affections, it is not wholly true of these, and is quite *untrue* as regards *chronic internal* and *many chronic external* or so called surgical affections.

In acute febrile and inflammatory maladies the hospital attendant and the private practitioner, perhaps, occupy almost the same vantage ground for the study of the invasion, the course, and the termination of disease, and the effect of remedies upon it; and the chief advantage possessed by the former consists in the larger number of examples of a given kind of disease that fall under his observation at a time, and the more reliable means at his disposal of carrying out intelligent nursing and systematic therapeutics, whether hygienic, dietetic, or medicinal.

But in all the chronic and the constitutional diseases of humanity, a much larger and more obscure class than the acute, the private practitioner has greatly the advantage of his hospital colleague. The former has an opportunity not permitted the latter, of noting the beginning of disease,—the first departure from health,—of studying at the outset its causes *when* only they often can be discovered,—of observing its subsequent course and termination;—and, after apparent recovery, of watching whether it is complete or has left behind it some permanent damage, either of function or structure, or, in the absence of either of these, some impairment of the power of resisting disease.

Again, how much larger and more available to the private