not overshadowed by surgery and the so-called scientific branches. To the physician, then, the all-important knowledge was to know *what medicine* to give to his patient when ill, that would *cure*.

The study of this subject is difficult. It demands concentration; it demands persistency, and unless applied to the immediate needs of the patient, unless we can make immediate application of the knowledge acquired, it is startlingly devoid of interest. It is not exact, and every student delights in exactness. But why is it not exact? It is because our total knowledge of the subject, in the first place, is imperfect; secondly, the study is not conducted in systematic, precise, scientific lines. It is not properly classified or arranged; the study is not made consistent with an exact principle of drug action.

My object in writing this paper for this journal is to attract the attention of the readers to a renewed study of the action of drugs; to the study of drugs in line with a principle at once exact, rational and attractive, and to encourage persistence in this study in these lines until the student shall have acquired a knowledge and an experience that in itself will stimulate him to a most enjoyable persistence in the study, and will enable him to say that there is in this study, when correctly conducted, a fascination that no other study possesses.

I have been trying to teach for many years the following facts: that the reason disease is not cured is because *we have the knowledge of drug action* necessary with which to cure it, or, conversely,

That failure to cure disease is due to lack of knowledge;

That disease will ultimately be subdued, in whole or in part, by remedial measures;

That doubt concerning drug action is a deadly foe to therapeutic progress;

That the study of the clinical action of the single drug *is the only true method* of drug study;

That each drug acts directly and invariably upon one or more exact conditions of disease, and, being so studied and known, an exact, reliable knowledge of drug action is obtained;

That when this knowledge is perfected we will not only prescribe for known conditions of disease with immediate success, but we can prescribe with equal success for conditions we have not previously met.

We begin our study, then, with a perfect analytical study of each disease in order to determine those conditions which are involved, in the patient we are studying at this time. We determine a knowledge of these conditions, and an ability to recognize them