

description. I read not long ago how to treat cases of enfeebled hearts, and the celebrated physician gave minute directions regarding the delicacies suitable for digestion and the special brands of expensive wines that could be given. The crying needs of the majority of sufferers received no notice. If one general practitioner would but note with care his difficulties and the best way to overcome them, a beginning would be made to supply a most urgent want, for others, following his observations, would continue the quest and extend the information.

I have so far briefly alluded to some fields that lie open to the general practitioner. A little reflection will call to your minds many other ways in which he can usefully extend medical knowledge. As I have said, the impression is widespread that no useful work can be done without elaborate apparatus involving some laboratory experience. I do not wish to decry laboratory work. It has done, is doing, and will do, a great deal for medical science. But what I object to is the assertion that no good work can be done except in hospitals and laboratories. How many young spirits, eager and keen, have had their energies wasted because of the erroneous idea that it is necessary to spend their time solving some problem which may be insoluble, and, even if solved, to be of no practical use? Once I believed I had interested a clever young man in clinical work, when suddenly he left me because he had been asked by a therapeutic authority to come back to his laboratory to institute a research on the medical properties of the strawberry leaf. I expostulated with him, telling him he would waste his time in a fool's chase. He was, however, enamoured of the idea, and spent six months in a fruitless quest. Some years after he sadly told me he wished he had followed my advice. A wide and fruitful field lies open for the general practitioner by the means of examination that he daily uses. To read text books on physical diagnosis, it might seem that the field of clinical examination had been exhausted. So far from this being the case, the physical examination of patients has not yet been satisfactorily undertaken, and no text book exists that is not sadly lacking in efficiency. I would like to see text books written in such fearless manner that the writer should be more urgent in pointing out where information is lacking, instead of exalting the minute amount of knowledge he possessed. Read-