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SPIRITUAL DIAGNOSIS.

(When closing for the session the class of Systematic Theology, instead of an ordinary class lecture, Dr. Gordon delivered the following address.)

READERS of the charming biography of Henry Drummond may remember that, near the close of his College course, he read a paper in the Theological Society on the subject of *Spiritual Diagnosis* that made a deep impression on many of his fellow students. He contrasted the clinical work of a medical student with the total absence of any direct dealing with men in a theological curriculum, and maintained that a minister can do far more good by "buttonholing" individuals than by preaching sermons. He urged that men may know how to preach, how to move the masses, how to draw a crowd; but "to draw souls one by one, to buttonhole them, to take from them the secret of their lives," this is difficult to acquire and hard to practise; and this power of spiritual discernment and of personal dealing, exercised upon another for his good, is what Drummond meant by spiritual diagnosis. He lamented the lack of such a science; he claimed there was a need for it in seeking to guide an awakened sinner to Christ; and he regretted that the College course gave no training as to how to direct such an one or how to note the changing spiritual experiences and their precise import. He closed his paper with an axiom for spiritual diagnosis which, in practice, he himself exemplified in a marked