

change adopted by this Faculty of adding nine months to the length of the curriculum. By this step ample time should now be secured for reflection and the work should be of a higher and deeper quality than before.

On entering on the study of disease you have the advantage of a special preparation in the primary branches. Anatomy has given you an insight into the structure of the body, and has given you the opportunity to observe and verify statements for yourselves. Physiology and chemistry, in addition to teaching you much that has a direct bearing on the final work, has also helped to cultivate your reasoning power and introduced you to the methods adopted in scientific argument.

Entering on your final work time need not be lost in acquiring the methods of study, and the usual experience of the senior student, of the comparative ease with which the final branches are mastered, is in large measure due to the careful drilling in the primaries. The principles to be followed are a repetition of the habit of careful observation, thoughtful habit, and, I may add, hard work.

In the short space of two years it is not to be expected that more than the important elements of the knowledge of disease can be mastered. Much remains to be learned after college days are over, and it is thus of even more importance to lay plans for future extension than to rear a showy but flimsy structure at the outset. When we find the most distinguished members of the profession admitting, towards the end of a life of close and constant application, that they have still much to learn, it is obvious that the student can only obtain the rudiments of this education during his college career. This principle I feel is so important that with your permission I would like to apply it to one of the great final branches—that of medicine—and enquire for a few moments how the brief period of two years allotted to its study can best be spent.

To an audience of medical students I need not dwell on the importance of the subject. For the great majority of medical men medical cases form the bulk of every-day work, and it is therefore important that they should be well prepared to deal with them. Even for the specialist it is important to be accurately acquainted with the abnormal workings of the body in order to avoid the too common error of regarding every derangement of function as a special manifestation of disease in his own limited field of labour.

Of late years there has been a tendency to look down on didactic lectures as being superfluous in the presence of the numerous and excellent text-books in almost all departments of medical literature.