

nose, throat, etc., where not only close inspection is necessary but instruments which aid the eye are required, and in those other departments of physical diagnosis where the training of the ear is of so much importance. It is also true in gynecology where the sense of touch must be educated. Of course at the regular undergraduate medical schools no such training is possible.

It is by the private courses that the personal teaching and the training of the senses are best accomplished, and but for one drawback this would be the ideal plan. But this drawback is a fatal one to the busy physician who wishes to "steal a while away from every cumbering care," and derive the greatest amount of benefit in the least possible time. The difficulty is this: every course which I have thus incidentally spoken of, with one exception, *is given at the same hour of the day*. The Post Graduate scholars, on the other hand, have, as far as possible, obviated this by thoroughly systematizing the different studies, so that every hour of the day, and, if desired, several hours of the night can be utilized. Between the Polyclinic and the Post Graduate it is very difficult even for one who has attended both to make a choice. The Polyclinic has the greater amount of clinical material, which is of course a great advantage. It also has the larger class of students, which is a disadvantage. The Polyclinic is a purely clinical school while the Post Graduate has a few didactic lectures. The anatomy and physiology of the nervous system are taught in a very thorough and learned manner by Prof. Spitzka, who is an authority on these subjects. Dr. Ronney delivers a very practical course of lectures on the applied anatomy of the nervous system, which consists, for the most part, of the localization of brain lesions and of lesions of the cord. These courses, taken in connection with the clinical lectures held by Prof. W. A. Hammond and Dr. Dana, make the course on nervous diseases at the Post Graduate a very desirable one. The course on diseases of children has very able exponents at the Post Graduate, but I think that Prof. Riply of the Polyclinic is a more practical instructor, inasmuch as he dwells more on the diseases which are encountered by every physician, while the instructors at the Post Graduate delight most in the diseases which we read about but rarely see.

The course on diseases of the eye and ear at the Post Graduate school cannot be excelled. Prof. Roosa is a teacher of rare ability, and his

clinics at the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital will be remembered with feelings of pleasure by all who have participated in them. This I say without detracting anything from the same course in the Polyclinic.

It is at these schools that the student of Gynecology is led to exclaim:

"This is the way I long have sought
And mourned because I found it not."

By taking out the course of gynecology at both schools almost the entire day may be spent at the clinics of the most eminent men of the country and in attending the operations at the Women's Hospital and other hospitals. It is said that a poet must be born, not made, and it may also be said that a teacher must be born and not made. If ever a man was born a teacher Dr. Dawson, Prof. of Gynecology at the Post Graduate School is that man. Only five years ago little but didactic teaching was afforded to the majority of physicians, and to-day it is in this city one of the most thoroughly taught specialties in a clinical way with which we have to deal. Dr. Thomas, Dr. Emmet, Dr. Mundi, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Skein, and a host of lesser lights, are engaged at these schools as instructors, and there is no dearth of material with which to demonstrate every known disease. In future I may go more into detail on other branches.

W. P. S.

226 East 20th St., New York.

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Progress of Science.

AN ADDRESS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.

Delivered at the First Annual Meeting of the New York State Medical Association, November 19, 1884.

By T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D.,
Clinical Professor of Diseases of Women in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN—FELLOWS OF THE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: If I interpret aright your wishes in requesting from me an address on obstetrics and gynecology on the occasion which brings you together in this city to-day, you desire, at the hands of one who has paid more attention to these subjects than the general reader and practitioner, an estimate from his standpoint of the present status of these departments of medicine, their relations to other branches, the advances which the past decade has