

thorough were his methods, with what industry and how exhaustively he examined a subject in order to see it in all its bearings, and to secure to himself a comprehensive and therefore certain knowledge of it.

To those of us who are thinking constantly of the problems of medicine the proposition, that research is necessary, seems self-evident; but to many in the profession and certainly to our lay brethren it may be an advantage to consider some of the facts and arguments which support it. Nobody who thinks over the prevalence of disease, and this should mean also the duration of human life, can deny that we, as a profession, have still much to learn. As long as a disease remains which is not amenable to treatment, the physician has his task before him. But what wants to be impressed upon the public mind is that cure does not consist alone in putting drugs into the human body to act upon this or that organ; but that every disease or ailment ought to be studied closely in order to understand the cause of the first divergence from the normal, and that the prevention of such divergence and its rectification as soon as possible should be our chief objects, whether by means of drugs, or by any other method that may be found applicable and will attain the desired end. Hence the study of the origin of disease, or **pathology** and further back still the study of nature's workings during health on the human body, or **physiology**, are of the utmost importance to the physician. Let no student think that he has done with physiology, when he has gone through the course preliminary to the study of medicine.

Research in physiology is constantly throwing fresh light upon the mechanism of the human body, explaining things hitherto obscure, or upsetting former hypotheses and substituting new ones more conformable to the new facts discovered.

In spite of the 250 years which have elapsed since Harvey's demonstration of the circulation of the blood, there are still questions of the heart's mechanism which require answer. Harvey recognized the commanding position of the auricle in the heart's cycle of contraction; he noted how the auricle was the first to start beating, and the last to stop beating; but it is only within the last few years that it has been recog-