

cine, delegated to special teachers and special examiners—doubtless to the advantage and width of scope of those sciences and to the greater knowledge of them, but I fear there is hereby engendered a tendency to take the student too far afield. . . . It is apt to lead too much to meandering in altitudes, too little to straight going upon *terra firma*; too much to pride and obtrusiveness of supposed higher knowledge, too little to reasoning and too little to power of reasoning upon simple data, and too little to that sort of reasoning which constitutes the basis of 'Common Sense.' The scientific and the practical, in short, become too much separated; what is needed is a greater regard to that connection between the two which should be maintained through the whole period of study."

SPECIALISM.

Another tendency in medical education is specialism. In some universities they are advocating allowing men to graduate in special lines, such as ophthalmology, dermatology, medicine, surgery, gynecology, etc. This seems to me to be most pernicious, tending to develop much narrowness and also to exaggerate the importance of certain specialties, and the public will suffer accordingly. The "malade imaginaire" will always find he has something not exactly right, but what depends on the specialist he consults. Nowadays even the most advanced are agreed on the importance of acquiring the rudiments and learning the principles of medicine and surgery, and to practice them before commencing the study of any specialty. I do not say that the study of specialties such as otology, ophthalmology, gynecology and even dermatology should be neglected—on the contrary, we should study them all—but in their relation to and bearing on general medicine and surgery we should have a good working knowledge of each, but an excess of time should not be devoted to any one. A year or two of hospital work, followed by some experience in general practice, should be managed by anyone who wishes to become a broad-minded specialist. In this way he gets a wider grasp of medicine and is less liable afterwards, when he gravitates to a specialty, to run in such narrow grooves.

It is the fashion now for men to go into medicine purposely to become specialists, not that they have any particular aptitude or leaning toward their special choice, but because the opportunities for making money are greater and their time will be their own—they only learn enough medicine and surgery to qualify for a degree. Such a training, although it may be a financial success, will tend to bring the practice of medicine down to a mere trade, and the higher and nobler instincts which ought to stimulate a professional man will be no more seen amongst us.