

treatment of disease, or informing them of new pathological doctrines introduced by some of the master workers of our art; and several of them have contributed valuable additions to the clinical history, to the diagnostic character of, or to the effects of remedies upon various diseases.

A striking character of our Society is that it is at once a Medico-Chirurgical, a Clinical, an Obstetrical, and a Pathological Society, and it has at least one active Psychological member.

One department of the Society's work is of especial value to its members, and I am not quite convinced that it is thought as much of or made as much of as it ought to be,—that of pathological demonstration. It supplies the very thing we need as practitioners, for we no longer have convenient opportunity of attending the post-mortem room of the hospital. To be permitted to see and handle, nay to have exhibited and explained to us by a demonstrator of pathological anatomy, at our regular meetings, not alone the specimens of diseased structure which now and then we obtain in our individual field of labor, but nearly all the specimens contributed by the entire body of English practitioners in the city, from their hospital and private practice, is indeed a rare and precious privilege. May not this valuable source of practical instruction be rendered yet more profitable? Permit me to suggest, that every contributor of a diseased organ or part shall furnish the Society with a written record of the clinical history and symptoms of the patient from whom it has been procured. This will greatly enhance its value to us as practitioners, by connecting the life history of the disease and of the patient with the alterations of structure which have been the outcome of the disease and the special endowments of the patient's constitution. The picture drawn upon the mind by the recital of the symptoms of a case of illness, and an ocular examination of the alteration of structure produced by the disease, will be more truthful, complete and indelible than were it drawn from only one of these sources.

But the *study of disease* and the *treatment* thereof in the *living* is the chiefest and most important work of our Society.