

disorders of structure and function, which is to be your ultimate special work. It should be one of your chiefest aims to combine in proper proportion, science and art. It would be a mistake in a man who aspired to becoming a practical physician to devote all his time to the study of chemistry or physiology alone; but the abuse of a thing is no argument against its proper use, and it will invariably be found that he is the best practitioner in the end who builds on such a foundation as the due study of the subjects I have just reviewed alone can give. The mere practical man will be found full to overflowing of false pathological theories which often form the basis of a mischievous treatment.

As your object then is not to become anatomists, physiologists, or chemists alone, but physicians and surgeons, your next place is the wards of the hospital—that “romantic region,” which will be found to have its charms for all—young and old. Here your faculty of observation will be brought fully into play—not that restless prying curiosity that begets disappointment and disgust, but a calm, careful searching after facts that only habit can engender. “You don’t know” as a recent novelist has aptly put it, “that you are forming a habit; you take each act to be an individual act, which you may perform or not at your will; but all the same the succession of them is getting you into its power; custom gets a grip of your ways of thinking as well as your ways of living; the habit is formed and it does not cease its hold until it conducts you to the grave.” The habit of observation is not intuitive then; it has to be acquired. The younger of you will spend your time most profitably in the out-patient room of the hospital, where you will learn what a wound is and how to dress it; what an ulcer is and the various methods of treatment. You will have an opportunity here also of studying the commoner forms of fracture, and the application of dressings for their relief. Occasionally visit the Ophthalmic room, where under the present able management there is much to be learnt by the youngest of you in connection with the diseases of the Eye and Ear. Do not attempt too much, however. The medical cases will yet only puzzle and fret you, so that I should advise