

acquired by long experience based on observation, of forging the missing links in the chain of evidence. You remember Voltaire's story of how Zadig was enabled to give an accurate description of the queen's strayed spaniel and of the runaway steed of the king, without ever having seen either of these animals, but by observing the character of their footprints, and the marks they or their trappings had left on the trees and stones of the path by which they had made their escape. In many instances this is the method by which the diagnostician arrives at his conclusions—the "method of Zadig," or in more modern phraseology, the method of Sherlock Holmes.

There is another aspect to an hospital training—its humanizing influence. It is not possible that two or more years spent in daily association with the sick and the injured should not have some influence for good on your character, and develop in you, at least, the quality of mercy which is not strained. There are foibles to be overlooked and idiosyncrasies to be understood and respected; there are sullen patients and garrulous ones, melancholic patients and cheerful ones, and tearful ones—most trying of all—to each and all of whom you must accommodate yourselves. Kindness, gentleness and courtesy—with firmness in the background for emergencies—are never out of place, and should be meted out in the same measure to No. 15, Ward X., as to Mr. Dividends of Capital street.

I need hardly insist on the importance of faithful attendance in the various laboratories—university and hospital—including the dissecting-room. The hope and the promise of the medicine of the future lie in the extension of laboratory teaching, not only from the educationist's point of view, but from the stand-point of the diagnostician and the therapist. The discovery of the diphtheria antitoxin is still fresh in our minds—a discovery, it cannot be too often repeated, entirely the product of the bacteriological laboratory. Again, in all the clinical laboratories of the great medical centres of the world, investigations are being carried on which are yearly adding to the more intimate knowledge of disease, and more or less directly to further advances in therapeutics. Notably of quite recent interest is the discovery by Widal, that in the action of human blood serum on cultures of the bacillus of typhoid fever, we possess a reliable means of establishing or denying the presence of that disease in the individual from whom the serum has been obtained,—a most valuable addition to the hitherto accepted criteria in obscure cases.

From the purely educational point of view a thorough training in laboratory work is not less to be recommended. For a clear *exposé* of this aspect of the question, and of the value of the ex-