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The Address in Surgery at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association, which we publish in this issue, is likely to interest everyone. Although few will agree with Mr. Lawson Tait on every point he has taken up, yet there is undoubtedly something more than a grain of truth in the statement he makes to the effect that there is a dangerous tendency in the present day to make the young practitioner too scientific and not sufficiently practical—to devote an undue proportion of time and energy to collateral sciences and laboratory pursuits at the expense of medical and surgical bedside work. That a sound grounding in the facts of science, in elementary chemistry, physiology and anatomy is a necessity no one will deny, and it goes without saying that these branches should be taught in laboratories and not in lecture-rooms, but the teachers should never lose sight of the fact that they are dealing with medical students who are seeking just so much elementary knowledge as will fit them for the due appreciation of their clinical studies. The object of medical schools is to make men medical practitioners, not to teach abstract sciences, and so long as but one grade of practitioner exists, so long as candidates for the degree have all to spend the same length of time at college—the limited period of four years—it will not be practicable to teach them thoroughly both experimental science and clinical medicine and surgery.

There is a vast deal of experience and observation required in the practice of medicine, and that school is the best which supplies most opportunities for bedside work, which should