

them properly for the study and investigation of disease, when they later enter the hospital wards. It, therefore, follows that sufficient time and suitable facilities must be provided for the application of the methods which they have learned, unless the chief purpose of their preparatory training is to be lost.

Leaders in the scientific departments have been among the strongest advocates of this reform, Professor Welch, of Johns Hopkins, especially having urged the necessity for "the foundation and support of teaching and investigating laboratories connected with the clinics."

To what purpose, one may ask, does the young teacher spend years in the pursuit of laboratory methods, if he is to be cut off from applying his knowledge, and further developing himself when once he passes from the systematic laboratories to the clinic? While one does not wish to appear as unnecessarily "emphasizing the obvious," the vital importance of this whole question is sufficient warrant for its careful consideration.

Looking to the future, it appears plain that either clinicians must have the facilities for and undertake the responsibilities of the laboratory work of the clinics, or the laboratory men must assume control of the wards. Modern requirements are not met by the present separation.

Carlyle has said, "That the end of man is an action and not a thought, though it were the noblest." We have, happily, passed the period when we are satisfied with even an intimate knowledge of the work of others, by reading, *thinking* and *talking* of scientific medicine without doing.

What is wanted now is the *opportunity* more than the stimulus to work, the conditions toward which the energies of our profession have striven, when our men might be able to join, as active participants, in the march of progress rather than continue as interested spectators.

It has been said, with some warrant for the statement, that while our clinical staffs have discharged creditably their obligations to the sick, that they have as yet contributed little in the way of researches of scientific value. But surely, if they have failed, it has been the failure of accomplishing the impossible, of attaining the end without the means, of turning out the finished product before the erection, manning organization and equipment of the plant, rather than entirely from fault of the individual.

I should like, if time permitted, to refer to numerous other lines along which a rapid evolutionary process is taking place at the present time, such as the establishment of special institutions