

upon man as the highest outcome of Nature and considering him and his relations, therefore, as worthy of the most careful study.

There are clear signs that this will be still more the case in the future. We recognize that it must be so; nevertheless, though we see that the movement is in the right direction, we must not minimize the danger which lies in the path and which will be inimical to the best interests of medical students if it is not carefully guarded against. The danger is that specialists occasionally lose sight of the practical applications of their subject and work at and teach only its more scientifically interesting features. It is a danger which exists in the cases of all subjects taught by specialists and it is one that must be carefully avoided in the case of anatomy, for the majority of the students of anatomy are, and so far as we can see always will be, medical students, who in most cases take up the subject merely as the means to an end. The danger will be avoided if the electing bodies of teaching institutions will take care to appoint as teachers only men who have been through the medical curriculum and who understand the needs of the profession and its students, and if the men thus appointed will keep in touch with their colleagues, who are practising the art of medicine and surgery. They can do that in many ways, of which one of the not least important is taking part in the meetings of medical associations, and thus keeping touch with the general knowledge of the profession and its relationships to their own special branch, and on that account it is important that there should always be an Anatomical Section at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association.

It should, however, be remembered that the object of a medical curriculum is not to turn out a finished anatomist any more than a finished physician or surgeon, for that is an impossibility in the time through which the curriculum extends. The object should be to give the men passing through the curriculum a wide knowledge of the principles on which they must rely in the practice of their profession, a sufficient knowledge of the details to prevent them making any serious mistake when they first begin to depend upon themselves, and a sufficiency of general knowledge to enable them to take their places as members of a community who are able to appreciate the interests of their fellows, and, what is not least important, an understanding of man's place in Nature and his relationship to Nature's general laws. The amount of detailed knowledge which it is possible to acquire within the period of a medical curriculum is not sufficient to enable a practitioner of medicine to cope successfully with all the various conditions he will meet in his practice, but if he has been thoroughly grounded in general principles,