

indispensable. It is the first step towards operative surgery, but it is not operating. For instruction in the living art of surgery, attendance in the operating theatre is of little value. The student sees little, and that little with uninstructed eyes. The student of surgery is just as likely to learn his art simply by attendance in the operating theatre as is the student of the violin to become a true artist simply by going to concerts. In both cases to learn the art the student must work at it; to attain to the highest degree of excellence he must work under a master.

If then the art of surgery is to be perfectly taught, it must be taught to the young surgeon actually operating. And here is our first difficulty. We cannot teach the art to unqualified men; students are not permitted to operate. We must begin our teaching after the student is qualified. As things are at present this is not easy. Our pupil of yesterday is our colleague of to-day; when qualified he is supposed to be our equal and therefore above our criticism. It is difficult to imagine a skilled senior in the operating theatre calling attention to the faulty methods of his young colleagues: it is impossible to conceive him pushing him aside and showing him how to do it. And yet, if the living art is to be taught at all, this personal way is the only way. Why should the young surgeon more than any other young artist fear tuition in the operating theatre? Possibly the presence of young students, of whom he is probably a teacher, would be a chief objection. Then, if the humility of him who truly seeks after knowledge is not forthcoming, must the young students be excluded from operations at which open instruction is given to young surgeons. And it resolves itself into this, that the master has a few qualified pupils, and is present at the operations of these few. He guides them in their work: he points out faulty methods; he advises and, perhaps, assists; and this he does in the presence of all his pupils.

As a matter of fact I doubt if the young surgeon would fear tuition in public, if such tuition were given honestly and courteously by a man whom he could look up to as a