

work in the secret service in India and at one stage under Lurgan Sahib he was allowed to look for a minute at a tray which contained various objects. It was then covered and he was required to detail what was on the tray. To Kim's enquiry as to how another had attained greater accuracy than himself in doing this, the answer was, "By doing it many times over till it is done perfectly—for it is worth doing." We might all carry this around as a daily reminder.

Daily life offers many chances of practice. How careful a description can you give of the personal appearance, clothing, etc., of the last patient who consulted you? If he had been a thief who walked off with something from your office could you give the police a description which would help them to capture him? The people we meet on the street, those in the street cars, all with whom we come in contact, may serve as subjects. It may be objected that this is unnecessary and tiresome, perhaps using up mental energy on things of no special importance. But nothing which trains the powers of observation can be unimportant, and far from being tiresome it adds to the interest of the day. "Strive to be one of those upon whom nothing is lost," said a wise teacher. To endeavor to make out as much as possible about those about us from observation alone is an interesting study. Besides it is using a part of our mental equipment which some of us leave unused. It demands observation and reflection. We remember the bewilderment of Watson when Sherlock Holmes made what seemed to be marvellous statements about his doings, and his surprise at the apparent simplicity of the methods.

But with this outside training—if it may be so called—must go the steady day by day observation of our patients, and with this there must be an honest reckoning of our mistakes. No part of the training is more essential. We all know the man who has made an incorrect diagnosis, but who, before the operation or post-mortem is over, has nearly convinced himself that he did make the correct diagnosis and before night is quite sure of it. For him no good has come from the lesson. To learn we must face the mistakes and try to find out why we made them. Then comes our gain. In this connection is an excellent saying, "It is easy to be wise after the event, but very difficult to be wiser," which can be illustrated by an example. A patient dies in whom you have made a diagnosis of typhoid fever, and on autopsy miliary tuberculosis is found. You are *wise* after the event, but the laboratory *Diener* or a first year student is just as wise as you. To be *wiser*, or in other words to lessen