

atory work for the investigation, diagnosis and treatment of cases in the clinic. Any serious consideration of the question must make it conclusive that laboratory examinations and investigations are as much a part of the clinic as the use of the stethoscope or the speculum. The delegation of the laboratory work of the clinics to other departments—as Pathology or Pathological chemistry—can never be a satisfactory solution of the problem or productive of the best results.

Even the most imperfect attempt to meet the laboratory requirements of the clinics in this way imposes on these departments an amount of detail work which must seriously interfere with their own special functions; it places laboratory investigations in the hands of those not intimately associated with the clinical problems to be worked out, and who, no matter how competent in their own spheres, cannot be expected to have a thorough grasp of all the clinical specialties; it deprives clinicians of both the incentive and opportunities for development as practical laboratory workers, or even to apply in a satisfactory way the results of scientific methods to the cases under their control; it results in a breakdown of the laboratory work of the clinic during holidays when ward work must go on, though the college laboratories are more or less inactive; it detracts from the independence and dignity of the clinic and presents an insuperable barrier to a high order of intensive or special clinical effort.

I believe one may safely say that there is no matter so intimately related to the future development of our clinical work and the practical training of our students as the provision of commodious and well-equipped laboratories in connection with each clinic, for routine examinations, for teaching and for investigation.

I do not wish to be misunderstood as advocating a complete severance of the systematic work in the college laboratories from the applied work in the wards, but the relation should be consultative rather than executive. One need only consider the amount of work involved in the laboratory end of the clinical specialties, the special training required, the number of assistants necessary to accomplish the work, the fact that surgery, medicine and other branches and their various sub-departments all present different problems in equipment, technique and direction, in order to grasp the impossibility of having this work carried out properly in other departments.

Every argument which can be so readily adduced in favor of the thorough training of students in the scientific departments during the primary years hinges on the necessity for preparing