

can by looking on and by helping; but of personal guidance in the actual work on the living subject analogous to the guidance given in other arts, we in ours know nothing. We have to teach ourselves by experience alone. Think what this would mean in art training. It would mean that to paint a thousand portraits is the only way to become a first-rate portrait painter; to model a thousand figures is to become a perfect sculptor. It means in medicine that the midwife of 5,000 experiences is more to be trusted than the obstetric gold medalist of London University, who can boast of only 50. And note this further. The young sculptor may with impunity make and break figures to his heart's content; the young surgeon, in learning his art, is not supposed to damage or destroy human beings.

Artists, mechanics, craftsmen of all sorts learn their work in the workshops or studios with a master to correct their faults and guide their efforts. Surgeons alone have, unassisted, to grope their way to excellence in their art. In his science the student has guidance enough in all conscience, and in his note taking and his dressing he is sharply looked after. But he is severely left to his own devices to pick up the technics of his craft.

Is this right? That the art of surgery is teachable there can be no dispute, that it is worth teaching is still less disputable. Why, then, is it not taught?

The art can be taught in only one way, the way of teaching of the plastic arts. The young artist must, while beginning the practice of his art, have a master at his elbow, a master who will criticise his methods and correct them, who will guide him in the use of his hand, his eyes, and his instruments; who will in the fullest sense make him his pupil and personally lead him on, step by step, towards such excellence in the art as he himself has acquired.

In no way do I seek to detract from the value of such knowledge as is got in the class of operative surgery, so-called, or on the benches of the operating theatre. As a step between anatomy and surgery, the performance of operations on the dead body is of supreme value; it is indeed