

beyond the mark to say that the majority of graduates of medicine practising in Ontario have never had the opportunity of examining sections, and these gentlemen are not exceptional, for it is only within the past few years that sectional anatomy has formed a prominent feature in the instruction given in any medical school. Dissection is, of course, all important, and the study of sections is always supplemental ; it is none the less essential. It is impossible to insist too strongly on the necessity for careful and conscientious dissection on the part of the student. The dissecting room is an excellent training school for accuracy of observation and for methodical work. Here, to a great extent, the character of the student is moulded early in his career ; and if proper supervision be not exercised, the student is prone to contract slovenly methods of doing his work, which will stick to him throughout his entire course. Above all things, therefore, one must insist upon careful dissection. There seems to be an inclination on the part of some to conclude that dissection is the *only* way of studying anatomy. This ground has been taken by certain teachers abroad, but why they should decry the use of such important accessory methods as thus afforded by the study of sections it is difficult to understand.

This subject is dealt with by Professor Macalister, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge, in an address delivered recently to the Medical Society of University College, London, on "Methods of Anatomical Study." Professor Macalister is one of the most progressive teachers of anatomy of the day, and of great experience as a teacher. I quote from his paper at considerable length. In considering "the limitations of the utility of dissection" he says, concerning that stage of study in which comparison of the part dissected is made with the same region as shown in frozen sections : "One school of teachers tells us that dissection is the only way to learn anatomy, but there are some things dissection cannot do. It cannot show you the relations of undisturbed parts, which is of the very essence of surgical anatomy. As the name implies, dissection is the art of taking parts asunder ; it is essentially analytical. When carried out properly, dissection is the art of removing connective tissue from around parts so that they can be severally seen. The most skilful anatomist, when he opens the body cavities, must displace the viscera in relation to the landmarks, and cannot avoid doing this to such an extent that, like the fallen Humpty Dumpty, all the members of the anatomical societies of Great Britain and Ireland cannot put them back again the way they were before. Here the careful comparison of our dissections with the sections of undisturbed parts comes to our aid. These sections are not mere superfluities—ornamental adjuncts to a dissecting room ; they are necessary parts of the teaching apparatus in any properly