

be taught any practical branch of learning by lectures ; they can only point out to him what he ought to learn, and by giving him a general knowledge of the subject, enable him afterwards to work it out practically." Three hundred years ago Malgaigne said, "'Tis the custom of pedagogues to be eternally thundering in their pupils' ears, as if they were pouring into a funnel, whilst the business of the student is only to repeat what the teacher has said." I have frequently seen students who could describe parts accurately in a written examination, unable to recognize the same parts when placed before them in an actual dissection ; they could also glibly go over the points of diagnosis between a hernia, hydrocele and a varicocele, and yet, when confronted with these diseases in hospital, be unable to recognize any one of them. These men had developed their memory at the expense of their powers of observation, trusted too much to book knowledge, and too little to practical work.

In this college, it seems to me that note-taking has always played too great a part, and that much energy has been wasted on it which might have been otherwise beneficially and usefully employed ; the cause of this, no doubt, has been the examination bugbear and the idea that the professor only examines on the subjects treated of in his lectures, and that he prefers students who answer questions in his own peculiar way. Now, in my opinion, there are no lectures so valuable that it is necessary for students to make a verbatim report of them. What he ought to do is this : the evening before, he should, in a good text-book, make himself fairly well acquainted with the subject of the next day's lecture, and then, if the professor throws any new light, gives more information about it, or puts the subject in a simpler way, to note these points down, he should also endeavor to put down the most important points treated in the lecture. I remember when a student spending much valuable time and giving much labor for the sake of having full and legible reports of all lectures. I have seen the error of my ways, and think that the only good this labor did me was to qualify me at some future time for a newspaper reporter or a lawyer's clerk. If the taking of accurate