

himself entirely to scientific investigation, is merely part of the preparation for the clinical work to be subsequently undertaken in the wards of the hospital, the results of the scientific researches carried out in the laboratory affording indications for more efficient methods of dealing with the practical problems encountered in the latter department.

I should here like to point out that in my opinion it is highly desirable that there should be mutual co-operation between the clinician and the laboratory worker, and that the clinical methods of diagnosis should not be abandoned altogether in favor of laboratory methods. Too many lives have been sacrificed by delaying an operation until a definite diagnosis has been made by means of elaborate and prolonged laboratory investigations. In the first place all the ordinary methods of clinical diagnosis, such as palpation, percussion, etc., should be exhausted, laboratory methods being employed subsequently in order to confirm what has been discovered by clinical ones. If the results of clinical examination indicate that an operation is advisable, make your diagnosis and act upon it, and do not let your patient die from septic peritonitis or some such cause while you are waiting for a report from the laboratory.

In this connection it may be pointed out that the function of the hospital clinic consists not only in caring for the sick and in carrying out scientific investigations, but also in training future practitioners of medicine, and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the most valuable part of this training from a practical point of view is that which can be obtained only by direct contact with the patient. In the laboratory the student learns his work by actually doing it himself, not by merely reading about it or even by seeing demonstrations, and this method of teaching is equally applicable to clinical work. I am also strongly of opinion that the work done during the period devoted to clinical study should not be limited to the study of patients as belonging to a class, but should include that of individual cases, in accordance with the rule which prevails in Great Britain. The student is required to carry out the observation of the patient from all points of view, to note the symptoms present, make the various examinations necessary for diagnosis, sift the information thus obtained in the light of the history, watch the progress and development of the individual case, formulate his own conclusions, and suggest whatever procedure his experience indicates, all being done under the supervision of an experienced physician or surgeon. The practical value of such training, even if only a comparatively small number of cases come