

muscle is in a state of degeneration or not requires you to know the ultimate structure of healthy muscle. To enable you to judge as to the abnormalities of the pulse and respiration requires you to be familiar with their frequency and other qualities at the various periods of life and in the different positions of the body during health. To recognize abnormalities of the urinary secretion, requires a knowledge of its healthy qualities, and so on with the other functions. You will thus perceive how necessary it is for the surgeon and physician to understand anatomy, chemistry and physiology, in order to practice their respective branches in a rational manner. As I have already said they are the basis on which medicine at present rests so far as it is scientific.

Another feature which characterises the present condition of medicine and gives us great advantage over our predecessors is our more precise modern methods of exploring disease, by the stethoscope, the microscope, the ophthalmoscope, the sphygmograph, the thermometer and the speculum. These instruments have contributed much to our accuracy of diagnosis, and thus advanced our exact knowledge of disease.

The medicine of the present day is also characterized by more attention than formerly to the natural history of disease, to its causes and pathology, by less heroic treatment, by more attention to good nursing and judicious feeding. Its course is closely watched, complications corrected and appropriate medicines administered when these are known to be useful.

In former times the cure of disease was attempted by specific remedies without any reference to the constitution of the patient, to the cause, nature or stage of the disease. For example, inflammation was universally treated by bleeding and other lowering remedies, and the same agents were frequently employed in the treatment of fevers. By physicians of the present day bleeding is seldom employed, and the reason is this: Formerly, theory was the ground work of therapeutics, now facts are the basis of treatment. Formerly diseases were treated by their name; if inflammation, by bleeding; now they are treated by their known conditions. Formerly local changes were the main guides, now the general condition of the patient is the chief consideration. What we now believe and act upon is not theory, but a better knowledge of the laws and relations of morbid change. We see that the general condition of the patient is of greater importance than his local malady, and that no treatment can be of any real service which sacrifices the greater to the lesser. In all treatment therefore the general condition is by physicians of the present day first considered. If it be one of weakness it matters not that the brain, the heart or the lungs may be in the state