

Our methods of training the student, clinically, are in some respects grievously at fault.

The clinical material in the out-door departments is not utilized as it should be. It is this class of cases that you will meet with in your every-day practice; you are sent into the wards to study pneumonia, typhoid, pleurisy, tabes dorsalis, and a variety of rare conditions gathered from the four corners of the earth, and know nothing about the treatment of a common cold or colic or the application of a mustard plaster. This you must acquire from your own experience, or humiliatingly accept your lessons from an old housewife or nurse, who usually will communicate your inexperience and ignorance to the neighbours, and this will not redound to your advantage.

If this be true of the medical department, how infinitely worse is the surgical. You are expected, yea, are compelled to sit on the benches for hours at a stretch, watching the skilful manipulations of surgeons, day after day, on operations which you would never pretend to attempt without a special training, instead of hearing surgical clinics on differential diagnosis. When you have once learned the technique of an operation, which is readily acquired, you will only profit by remaining through it if you are taking a practical part. Otherwise, your time is better employed in assisting in the simpler things one sees in the out-door departments.

In this way, then, you would be the better of a hospital training by seeing the practical little things, oft the forerunners of great ones, and dealing with them.

The next point you have to decide is location. Will you undertake a country practice with its arduous, though healthy life and promise of quick returns, or will you go to the city, where the profession is now overcrowded. The guiding principle it appears to me is, to seek that life, country, town, or city, most congenial to your nature, that place you would best like to live in and go to work. You cannot be happy and successful living any place if your mind is constantly reverting to some other locality.

Having decided those points, your attitude towards your fellow practitioners, members of irregular schools, and your patients must be your next consideration.