

and the special means adopted to relieve it) New York may lay claim to being the second city in the world. Because New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken, Long Island City, and the suburbs of these, with over 3,000,000 of population, are practically one and the same, and the clinical material included within their limits is quite as available for teaching purposes as is that within a circle having 20 miles radii and its centre Charing Cross. And since the magnificent Vanderbilt donation to the Medical Department of Columbia College, and other generous gifts of like kind, this vast amount and variety of disease is being more and more put to good use for the teaching of medicine.

The post graduate courses here may be described as excellent. I will not say that they offer as good inducements to the students as the German courses, but I must say that a man may study to unusual advantage any or all of the branches into which medicine and surgery are commonly divided. It is a matter of taste which of the two schools one chooses, probably certain branches are more effectually taught in one than in the other. Taken as a whole, I prefer the Polyclinic on East 34th Street. The arrangements for the practical study of the Eye and Ear are second to none anywhere, the courses on the Throat and Nose are complete; the man who does not profit by them has himself to blame. The teachers are anxious to impart instruction, and every facility is offered to the student. Not only are certain daily or tri-weekly lessons given in manipulative work, but for each branch cards are issued, giving a list of hospitals and teachers connected with the schools where the student may work up the branch from "early morn till dewy eve," if he be so inclined. The New York Post Graduate School and Hospital on East 20th street is also well worth a visit. The students here are not quite as numerous as at the Polyclinic, a fact somewhat in favor of the Post Graduate School, in my judgment at least. I would like to support the proposition that one is much more likely to make progress in study (particularly where skill in the handling of certain instruments of precision is desired) with a few patients and few students, than in a clinic crowded with teachers, students, and patients.

To begin with, it is essential that one (every beginner at least) should have the same teacher, because no two men impart instruction in the

same manner. Then in crowded classes one does not readily obtain that contact between teacher and pupil which is so desirable where hand-to-hand instruction is involved. Finally it is in crowded clinics more difficult to follow up individual cases from time to time.

After wandering around and taking notes of the various teaching advantages available for the special branches I was interested in, I decided to spend my mornings with another searcher after practical knowledge, as office assistant to a well known oculist and aurist here, Dr. Mittendorf, Assistant Professor in Bellevue. My afternoons, with the exception of occasional visits to other Eye, Ear and Throat clinics in the city, were devoted to the courses given by the surgeons attending the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Those who are familiar with the four "head" specialties will recognize the names of Drs. Bull, Loring, Noyes, Derby, and Cocks, on the Eye; Rupp on the Ear; and Asch—one of the most friendly of teachers and most genial of men—on the Throat and Nose. The competition between the post graduate schools and less ambitious special courses, like that of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, is a very healthy and a very profitable one to the student. Seventy-five per cent. of the teachers have studied in the various continental schools and are well read men. They all frankly state their belief that shortly the graduated student will have advantages here not to be surpassed by those of Vienna or Berlin,—advantages arising out of the necessity for having an intimate knowledge of German,—the Viennese English courses to the contrary, notwithstanding—on the one hand, and out of the perfecting of the teaching system here on the other. I should like to say something later on that subject while breathing the atmosphere of a foreign city. Similarly, I would advise any one who proposes to spend some time here in post graduate study:—Take a week or ten days in looking around. You can study what you will, where you will, and, last but not least, at almost whatever cost you will, if you will only hunt it up.

One would imagine from the way in which quinine is given by professional drug distributors, and the facile manner in which it is consumed by the laity, that malarial germs were laying siege to the city. And yet I can find no evidence of its existence to any extent. The dozens of doctors and patients whom I have questioned on the subject furnish no signs of its especial prevalence. I