

mit of such records being made! Every hospital would then be a storehouse of facts, on which all might draw. We would be able to present an accurate picture of all the diseases that occur in this country. We could then, at small cost, obtain from any hospital an abstract of its records pertaining to any disease of which we desired to make a special study.

The multiple functions of a hospital should not be overlooked; they are threefold. Besides affording facilities for the treatment of patients, every well equipped hospital should also provide facilities for the clinical education of students and for the training of nurses. This is a reasonable view, as otherwise the vaster number of people, who cannot enter a hospital for treatment, would have no provision made for either their professional or nursing care. It is our duty to make the most of the facilities our hospitals afford, and in order to obtain the greatest benefit it is necessary that accurate records be made of the conditions presented by all patients during the whole course of the illness, as well as of the results of efficient laboratory investigations. If this is to be done, the visiting staff must have the assistance of a well trained laboratory assistant, as no physician in active practice can give the time necessary to do such laboratory work. Each of the smaller hospitals springing up all over this province should have at least one such assistant. Such hospital work would have a wonderfully stimulating effect on the neighbouring profession and vastly increase the efficiency of their private practice. Difficult cases could be studied both from the clinical and laboratory aspects. The training in observation necessary to make such records would, I venture to say, do more to advance the science of medicine than even laboratory work, much as that is doing to advance medical science. Neither field of work is independent, but each must be supplemented by the other. The laboratory findings alone are an insufficient basis on which to form a full conception of any disease; the results of the diseased process must be interpreted in the light of the environments in which they develop, that is, the human organism. This is especially true of the use of therapeutic measures.

It will take several years to secure such an improvement in the clinical records of the hospitals all over this country as will be necessary to make a complete change in the methods of medical education. The men at present doing the hospital work will scarcely change their methods, so that we will have to depend on a process of evolution.

The adoption of an improved and uniform plan of hospital