

state of body, and circumstances in which it was placed. I have also often warned you not to suffer yourselves to be led away by the mere name of disease, so as to treat all cases coming under that name in the same manner; but always to regard disease not only as modified by the circumstances which attend it, but often requiring a treatment opposite to that which at another time might be most advantageous.

Medicine should be as far as our knowledge will allow a scientific study. I have alluded in some former remarks to the rapidity with which an old practitioner will understand the nature of a case and prescribe its appropriate remedies; but it is not always so. Many times with most earnest attention are we obliged to scan the aspects of a case. Many times do we cautiously balance the plans of treatment most appropriate. Often do we wait in anxious solicitude the effects of the medicines we have thought necessary to prescribe. We are sometimes unable to decypher the indications of disease. Often we are unable to foresee the results of our treatment. The investigations required to treat a case are often extremely extensive. We must seek the medical history of the patient for years back, even to his progenitors; also, his habits and the circumstances in which he has been placed; all present symptoms must be examined and their importance analysed. Having thus obtained a knowledge of the disease, we have next to investigate in what way we shall be best able to remove it. Here we have to weigh all the circumstances which make one plan preferable to another, and here we are often led to treat the same disease at different times in different modes, *i.e.*, inflammation, which sometimes requires severe depletion, while at others we uphold the strength with stimulants and wine.

Gentlemen,—In the course which you have gone through, you have necessarily learned many things which were elementary; and many that seemed more directly practical; and you were led, perhaps, to look upon the former as mere steps for the attainment of the latter, and therefore to be disregarded when the purpose was fulfilled. Your conclusion, though in some respects correct, would, on the whole, be erroneous, and the examinations you have gone through will have shewn you that your professors required quite as much elaboration in your elementary as in your practical studies. I desire now to impress upon you that much of this elementary knowledge is of direct practical bearing, and must not be laid aside, as if its end were wholly attained; but must continue to be cultivated and refreshed from time to time.

Let us take, *ex. grat.*, the department of Chemistry. You are perfectly aware that without a certain knowledge of chemical laws and combinations, it is impossible to get accurate notions of many of the func-