

travelled over the same road. You will find it out to your cost, and to your patients' cost, during the next year or two—only now do you begin to gain full knowledge. Do not make that most unscientific mistake of thinking that from the voracious caterpillar constantly cramming food into its insatiable maw you emerge forthwith into the perfect and lovely *imago*. That is not the case—at least, not among the higher insects. You have to pass through the chrysalis stage, a stage of humble suspense, in which the results of all the cramming are refined and rearranged. We have done our best for you—we have fed you with food that we have endeavoured to make assimilable, even if at times it has been as highly concentrated as those little lozenges which are said to contain each one the nutritive ingredients of a whole mutton-chop. Noble minds and generous have come to our aid and have (if they will permit the homely metaphor) supplied us with the necessary culinary utensils. But while we may have been able to peptonize some of that food, to give it to you in a more or less digested condition, the final stages of digestion and the process of assimilation have of necessity to be performed by you yourselves, the salt of experience aiding.

Do not set out with the belief that, because you know your Osler and your other text-books and can repeat your lecture notes by heart and have followed diligently every operation in the theatre, you are therefore prepared to diagnose and master any and every case that presents itself. This may seem an obvious and unnecessary remark, nevertheless I have followed so many budding house surgeons and house physicians on this side the water and across that I deem it wise to note it. As you have learnt in your lectures in physiology, so many factors are concerned in the proper carrying out of each of the bodily processes, and their interrelations are such that it is oftentimes impossible to predict or fully explain the results of variation in any single factor. So it is also in pathology, in the study of disease. Every case varies and departs in some point or points from the classical symptomatology.