

of the two latter, are no longer adequate to express the numerous subsections of professional work. On former visits I usually spent an hour or two a day with Sichel, Desmarres, or von-Græfe over the eye; with Wilde or Toynbee in studying the ear; while a Stokes, a Graves, a Trousseau, or a Schoenlein was, in our then benighted condition, deemed fit to teach the practice of medicine in general; and a Syme, a Velpeau, or a Langenbeck, was supposed to be quite abreast of general surgery. Now, all is changed, and perched on every barley-corn of vantage ground, the specialist works in a narrower—a more restricted sphere, seeing clearer, no doubt, what he *does* see, but with less acquaintance, it is said, with the ailments of other organs with which his own may be intimately connected. Yet the labors of the specialist—each in his own department—have greatly advanced the general stock of knowledge. The all-around man is becoming a *rara avis*; yet when a Jonathan Hutchison appears, going to and from the meetings of the British Medical Association, he is greeted by physician and surgeon alike as one who, in his day, has touched many things pertaining to both medicine and surgery, yet of whom it may be said, *nec tetiget quod non ornavit*. It is men such as he who show us how the various branches of our art are mutually dependent, and how they correct, reform and reclaim each other.

The newer and more inviting fields of special work are, in Great Britain, drawing into their ranks, at a rapid rate, men who will be competitors in those ranks. There must soon be a limit to subdivision. The story told, a few years ago, of a lady in London who had given her lungs to one physician; her liver to a second; her heart to a third; her womb to a fourth, and so on, would now be strange in the atmosphere of refined life, were she so incautious and so ill informed as to confide the whole of any organ to a single individual.

Now and then, as you are aware, efforts are made in the direction of synthetizing diseases. Thus Erasmus Wilson, in his old age—and it was a richer legacy than that represented by his Cleopatra's needle,—reduced, for therapeutic purposes, diseases of the skin to *four* clearly and easily understood heads. The whole was contained in a few duodecimo pages. Eczema was grouped naturally under one of them, and I much doubt if any of the octavo volumes, on that disease alone, have contained more matter for the practising physician than the few lines in question. No one

is still doing more to harmonize medicine and surgery than Sir Jas. Paget, who draws from pathological anatomy and from clinical pathology, whether for the use of the experimentalist, the chemist or the microscopist.

Great advances have been made in the diagnosis of diseases of the different cavities of the body; but in the exploration of mucous inlets, as the nose, larynx, trachea, urethra, bladder or vagina, I failed to notice any advantages not within the *portée* of practitioners twenty years ago.

The *principles* of treatment are not now much better understood, although *diagnosis* may have outstripped its former self by many a stride.

With the greatly increased facilities for the investigation of disease; with the improvements in the methods of diagnosis; and with the application of direct methods of treatment, initiation is sometimes shrouded in well-intentioned mystery. For instance, in a specular examination of one of the mucous inlets, there was an arrangement of mirrors which reflected the electric light *four* times before it reached the mucous membrane. The green baized drapery completed the illusion; and the fee was larger, possibly, than if the examination had been gone through with direct light, or with light once reflected.

The separation of medicine, as a whole, from surgery, as a whole, seemed destined to be complete and irreparable. But it is not so. Handmaids of each other they must ever remain; again, a tendency is noticeable of an *approchement*, and this time by the invasion by the surgeon of the domain of medicine.

The lines which separate specialties are, as I have said, narrow, short, yet well defined. They are steadily becoming narrower, shorter, and still more defined as between specialties, and especially surgical specialties. That the public is a gainer is much doubted. But while the lines which confine specialism within steadily narrowing limits are becoming more defined, the lines which separate medicine, as a whole, from surgery, as a whole,—even in those departments in which, till recently, the physician tolerated not the aid or intervention of the surgeon,—the latter has dared to enter, and with advantage, the domain of the physician.

Not many years ago, for instance, in all affections of the chest or abdomen requiring manual interference, the surgeon was sent for, and the operation was performed at the request, and under