

that a practical course in laboratory work is regarded as one of the most valuable of the recent additions to the medical curriculum. The original researches in chemistry and bacteriology, associated with experimental work, which are now looked upon as essentials in the routine work of every hospital, have played and are playing a very prominent rôle in the great developments in preventive medicine, which is progressively becoming one of the most important branches of medical science.

Clinical Training.—Whilst fully recognizing the fact that the advances in methods of diagnosis and treatment render it imperative that the medical curriculum should include a certain amount of instruction in laboratory work, and that the student should at least acquire a sufficient degree of knowledge in this connection to enable him to understand the various reports and analyses which may from time to time be submitted to him in the course of his professional practice, and to interpret them intelligently in relation to the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of the cases under consideration, at the same time I am of opinion that it is inadvisable to give undue prominence to the purely scientific side of medical training. In his presidential address at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association at London, Ontario, Dr. McCallum¹ expressed the opinion that in the report of the Carnegie Committee too much stress is laid on the importance of laboratory instruction in medical education. He thinks that there is a tendency for it to assume undue prominence, and to occupy so much time that comparatively little is left for the clinical work and personal contact with patients, which is so necessary as a preparation for independent practice, and I may say that I am quite in accordance with this view.

It is unfortunate that such a sharp line of demarcation is commonly drawn between theoretical and practical work. The scientific investigation of many of the problems connected with disease can most effectively be carried out in well-equipped laboratories in close relationship to hospital clinics, but the work done in the laboratory should not be looked upon as an entity, entirely distinct and separate from the clinical work, but should rather be regarded as complementary to it. The ultimate object of both departments is or should be the same, namely, caring for the patient in the best possible manner, and the carrying out of investigations with a view to ascertaining the most effectual methods of preventing and curing disease. The instruction given in the laboratory, except in cases in which the student intends to devote

¹McCallum, H. A.: Canada Med. Assoc. Journ., July, 1913, p. 547.