

which is not so much frequented now as when I was a student. I refer to the hospital wards. Students, while perhaps more scientific, I say scientific because nowadays every one who spends much of his time in a laboratory learning the use of all kinds of modern apparatus, including our old friend the microscope, is regarded as having a scientific training—I may say that students, while perhaps more scientific (microscopical and mechanical), have not the intimate personal knowledge of disease which continued observation at the bedside gives them, so that, when started in some out-of-the-way place without their scientific machinery, they are like fish out of water. It may soon be that they will not be able to diagnose a fracture without the X-rays, tuberculosis without getting bacilli in the sputum, and so on without end. Students are not taught to observe so accurately the evident symptoms of disease, and, as I say, are becoming mere mechanics who need an armamentarium, which only a great hospital or university can possess, to make an accurate diagnosis of an ordinary disease; the higher and more intellectual means of drawing conclusions by inductive reasoning are almost neglected. Mind you, I do not wish to disparage laboratory teaching—it is essential—but we can have too much of a good thing, and laboratories nowadays take up too much of the student's time in the latter years of his curriculum. The ordinary student should have a good working knowledge of laboratory methods, and this should be obtained chiefly during his first two years, but the refinements if insisted upon will be required at the expense of some more useful and practical information, for the average student can only hold so much knowledge—it is hopeless to attempt to put a quart measure into a pint pot."

Speaking of specialism, Dr. Shepherd held up the ideal of all-round knowledge. He thought all doctors should acquire a good working knowledge of all specialties, but an excess of time should not be devoted to any one. A year or two of hospital work, followed by some experience in general practice, should be managed by any one who wishes to become a broad-minded specialist. Referring