

and which I have the honor to teach--viz., Anatomy. I know that the opinion is commonly held that professors desire to make the most of their own subjects, and to unduly magnify their importance; still, I think every unprejudiced man who has thought out the matter will admit that anatomy is the foundation on which not only the superstructure of scientific surgery is built, but also scientific medicine. Dr. Wm. Hunter, in an introductory lecture delivered over 100 years ago in London, said, "When we hear any man of the profession talking of all the knowledge of anatomy that is necessary for a physician, and of as much as a surgeon needs to know, we cannot but lament the singularly hard fortune of his patients: first, in being sick or diseased, and then, in falling under the care of so ignorant a counsellor. Who is the man of practice and integrity that can lay his hand on his heart and say that he has not, in some case or other, had occasion for all his anatomical knowledge; and who has not wished at times that he had been possessed of more? Who, then, are the men in the profession that would persuade students that a little of anatomy is enough for a physician and a little more too much for a surgeon! God help them! They have it not themselves, and are afraid that others should get it." (*Hunter's Introductory Lectures, Lond., 1784.*)

Anatomy forms the basis on which all other sciences, as physiology, pathology, etc., are built, and without an accurate knowledge of it no man can hope to become a scientific practitioner of medicine. There is no royal road to learning anatomy, and no easy method. The student must rely principally on his own exertions, for by constant and thorough dissections only can any real knowledge of the subject be acquired. Books are useful in so far as they tell the student what he should see and look for, and lectures enable the student to get a general view of the whole subject and to appreciate its more scientific aspects; but the kind of knowledge which remains with you longest, and is of the most benefit in the after practice of your profession, can only be obtained by assiduous dissection.

Gentlemen, you can never learn too much anatomy, and you will probably never have so good an opportunity as the present