

While surgical societies have their special value and place, there can never be any danger of their teaching causing a separation of labors of the physician and surgeon. So long as the internal organs of man become disordered and diseased they shall need medicine. It is an indisputable fact that the best results in surgery are obtained, not by a competitive struggle between the surgeon and physician, but by a graceful co-operation, one with the other for the benefit of the sufferer.

This is the result of education and culture. How different now from the time when in 1774, Von Wuthwehr of Freiburg suggested a union of surgery with medicine, the students threatening to mob him!

The surgical appliances, instruments, materials used, the aid to diagnosis, the technique of operations and the operations themselves are universally the same. The inventions and new discoveries of different individuals are eagerly published and heralded with lightening speed all the world over. It is easy for me to go on with these glittering generalities, but that will not suffice for an occasion like this. So I shall now proceed to do my duty.

While aseptic precautions make it possible for us to expose and explore the brain, with comparative impunity, still, owing to its high and special organization, its feeble recuperative, reparative, or, if any, regenerative power, outside of raising depressed fragments of bone, compressing it, trying an artery and opening an abscess, the practical field is limited. The surgical treatment of most diseases of this organ is but seldom satisfactory. It is true that we perform craniotomies for the microcephalic, supply intra-cranial drainage for the hydrocephalic, and oftentimes benefit them, but I have yet to see an intelligent citizen develop from one of these subjects. What is needed for the more successful removal of brain tumors is an earlier diagnosis, more accurate localization, and probably better technique. Haemorrhage, so often causing death, in these operations, is no longer dreaded when we temporarily clamp the carotid arteries.

Reports of successful cases of the removal of brain tumors are becoming more and more frequent. Obscure disturbances of the brain, following severe injuries, such as mental cloudiness, irritation, stupor and persistent headache, are often relieved, when one, two, or more ounces of cerebro-spinal fluid are removed by lumbar puncture. The procedure is so simple and free from danger that it should be more generally employed for the relief of cerebral tension. As a means of diagnosis of injuries of the cerebro-spinal axis, it is not reliable. For the probable relief of epilepsy or insanity following trauma, the trephine is invariably applied. The x-ray is a welcome aid in the diagnosis of obscure fractures, bone