

therefore, should be the ideal course of training that you should place before yourselves? Let us think this out and then consider the means afforded to you for accomplishing these objects.

First and foremost as to the complete physician. He must be thoroughly trained in the practice of his profession. What does this mean? Not that when he graduates he is to be fully supplied with all the data concerning disease. That were impossible. The medical man is or should be learning new facts, new methods his whole life long: not five years, not ten years suffice to give him full knowledge. It does mean, however, that he shall be thoroughly equipped to know how to proceed in the making of a diagnosis and in affording rational treatment; that he shall, as I have said, be a thoroughly trained man. He must already have such close personal experience of the commoner ailments that he can recognize and treat them with sureness: he must be so equipped that approaching any case that presents itself he is able to utilize the appropriate modern methods of diagnosis, and, applying them, to come to a sound conclusion as to the nature of the disease, and from this be prepared to treat that disease rationally to the utmost possible degree. To do full justice to his patient, to possess for himself a quiet conscience, the practitioner must feel that he has accomplished all that is possible. I do not mean that he personally must be able to do everything for the patient, that he must combine all the specialties. But he must have that amount of knowledge which tells him either what he himself can do, or what may appropriately be done for the case by others rather than by himself.

What does this imply? It means that as regards ordinary ailments he shall already be thoroughly familiar with them. Lectures and books cannot afford that familiarity. He must have come into personal contact with them. This necessitates a long training in the hospital and the dispensary; in the dispensary that he may encounter abundant examples of minor ailments and more chronic ambulatory cases and learn thus to recognize their salient features; in the hospital, that studying at the bedside individual examples of more acute disease day by day he may gain a knowledge of the evolution and course of disease processes.

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But hospital and dispensary attendance of to-day is a very different matter from "walking the hospital" as known to previous generations. Our forbears depended for their knowledge and diagnosis of disease upon their unaided senses, and