

and would give the pathologist a scientific basis upon which to establish the conditions of disturbed vital action, and afford the therapist many valuable suggestions as to the means best adapted to restore health. Let it be observed, too, that in disease, it is highly probable that the same vital laws operate as in health, although under different circumstances, and with different manifestations. An intimate acquaintance with the nature, causes, structural alterations, symptoms, and course of the diseases of mankind is a requirement of the physician especially insisted upon at the present day. Without it a man is ignorant of the science of medicine, however practised he may be in the *art* of medicine. Very much has been made out as to the alterations of structure (morbid anatomy), and symptoms characteristic of most diseases, and those departments of pathology have attained a high degree of development. Those which are concerned with the causes and natural course of individual diseases, are still in a very unsatisfactory state of development, and their elucidation is one of the most urgent necessities of scientific medicine in the present day. Did we understand or even know the causes of many serious disorders, how much could we not do, at least toward their prevention, if not cure and removal? But it is especially a practical acquaintance with disease and its treatment that is of importance to the medical student generally in Canada; for in a new and sparsely peopled country like ours, where most medical men are obliged to practice all branches of the profession, comparatively few of us have the opportunity, or means, or I fear inclination to the cultivation of the more abstruse and philosophical subjects of medical science. By a practical acquaintance, I mean such a knowledge as enables its possessor to recognise the presence of disease, differentiate their varieties, appreciate their degrees of severity, specialty of type, and peculiarity of manifestation, arising from diversity of age, diathesis, constitution, &c., and to employ judiciously all the means known to science and experience to cure, retard, and alleviate them. Now the possession of this knowledge implies not only more or less acquaintance with the descriptions of disease furnished in books, and lectures, but a *personal* knowledge of them acquired at the bedside of the sick—the ability to use our unaided powers of observation promptly and correctly, and to enlarge and assist them by the many instruments and physical appliances which the physician of the present day possesses, as the stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, microscope, thermometer, &c.; a familiarity with the uses and doses of medicine, and with the pathological conditions in which experience has shown that they may be properly administered—as well as a certain amount of skill and facility in the performance of those mechanical offices, which more properly