

8. Auscultating doctors cannot prove that more and speedier recoveries result from the treatment; "if they mean to prove the correctness of their diagnosis, they must first have their patient on the autopsy table."

Remember that was only 60 years ago, twenty-five years after Laennec's publication, six years after Skoda's book appeared, and only two years before I began the study of medicine.

Still the wakening was rapid. In 1841 Wunderlich, with whose name you are familiar, as that of the popularizer of clinical thermometry in his journal and afterwards in his book of 1868, wrote a pamphlet on French medicine and the young Vienna school, and its fertilizing and reforming effects; influential new journals were started by him and Roser, by Henle and Pflüger, by the faculty of the University of Prague, and one for pathological anatomy by Florian Heller (1813-1871); Good text-books made their appearance, such as Haeffle's "The Microscope at the Sick Bed," and Gaal and Heller's "Clinical and Chemical Diagnosis," not to speak of Constatt's handbook in four volumes on Pathology and Therapeutics.

Meanwhile, what became of therapy? Rokitansky's occasional therapeutic suggestions could not possibly mean much; Skoda, who directed the clinical hospital, made a number of poorly managed experiments with drugs which convinced him whose attention was taken up with diagnosis, that therapeutics was a hopeless problem. The Vienna nihilism had no more outspoken prophet however than Joseph Dietl (1804-78); professor in Krakow. Says he, as late as 1851; "Our practical work does not compare with the amount of our knowledge. Our ancestors laid much stress on the success of their treatment of the sick; we, on the result of our investigations. Our tendency is purely scientific. The Physician should be judged by the extent of his knowledge and not by the number of his cures. It is the investigator, not the healer, that is to be appreciated in the physician. As long as medicine is art it will not be science. As long as there are successful physicians, so long are there no scientific physicians. Our power is in knowledge, not in deeds."

Indeed there were hosts of medical men who never thought of their diseased patients, but only of the ontologic "disease," and looked upon the doctors who wished to save their patients as weak characters and mediocrities.

The upshot of all this was that the patient who you may think in your innocent minds had the pardonable wish to get well, had nothing to do but—

1st. To be percussed and auscultated by Skoda;