

In Medico-Legal inquiries the general Practitioner derives most important aid from the microscope. Chemical analyses in poison cases are usually—and rightly—carried out by specialists, but every medical man should be able, in given specimens, to distinguish between blood stains and those of reddish fluids, between human hair and that of animals, and be able to pronounce an opinion on a supposed semen stain. In the diagnosis of tumours, another important use is found for this instrument; but here, as we shall learn, caution must be exercised. Except in well marked instances of Scirrhus and Epithelioma, few things are more difficult to decide by the microscope alone, whether a given tumour be a malignant or benign growth. Often it is quite impossible, and in all cases the general character of the tumour must be taken into consideration. The Physician is usually the sanitary authority of his district, and supposed to know diseased from healthy meat, which it is not always possible to do on external examination; and here again the microscope will do good service. These are briefly a few of the instances in which a knowledge of the use of this instrument will assist you in practice. I have purposely mentioned these few pathological instances of the use of the microscope first, for as practical physicians we must consider them of primary importance; but in addition you will find a genuine source of enjoyment and profit in following out almost any branch of Histological inquiry. We shall begin upon and work over the normal textures of the body, which will familiarize you with the details of manipulation, and without which it would be impossible to appreciate the pathological changes in the various organs. As in learning the use of any other instrument, so with the microscope, you must not expect to become proficient all at once. In the present course you will, at any rate, master the chief difficulties, and be able to pursue the study by yourselves, as well as prepare a set of specimens that may be useful for reference hereafter. Though the two hours devoted to the demonstration will