

advancement of medicine must be applied, not only to chemical research, but to biological and psychical research as well. Chemistry got beyond its depth when it undertook to analyze the complicated processes of life into their several factors, and to explain them in accordance with the rigid laws of chemical action, and the lesson taught has not been forgotten.

The goal of chemistry as an experimental science is to offer a complete interpretation of the constitution of everything animate and inanimate; but the goal is an ideal one. It marks the direction in which we travel, but never the spot we shall ever actually attain. For, as the late Kingdon Clifford says, "Scientific thought is not an accompaniment or condition of human progress, but human progress itself."

I have now tried to show that the history of medicine, as a whole, shows progress or stagnation in proportion as the experimental method of enquiry, the process of trying and thinking, has been used or neglected, and that this method is the one that will most surely sift facts from fancy, and, by the orderly arrangement of facts, enable us to see relations previously obscured. I now wish to emphasize the fact that a training in this method is of the highest importance to every student of medicine. You, as students, are not now so intimately concerned with the advancement of science as with the acquisition of the knowledge and training that will make you useful practitioners. "How, then," you may ask, "will a training in the experimental method of enquiry be of such advantage to us? Very few of us will be placed in circumstances that will enable us to become investigators; what we want are useful facts; we wish to be practical men, practitioners." Now, that is precisely what we intend to help you to become; investigators you may be some day, but you must acquire your profession first. It is obviously impossible to advance medicine until one has mastered it; he must first step to the front before his blows can tell in the strife, and I may add—I do not believe anyone can be thorough in any department of science without wishing to advance it. But I will tell you why this training is of such importance: because it educates your seeing powers—your mental vision. It teaches you to observe correctly, and to reason accurately from your observations. That you should receive a training