

Nor does the effect of the preponderating influence of diagnosis under our present conditions cease with the termination of hospital service, for the steady procession to foreign clinics referred to, and which with us in Chicago is legendary, has been and is at present in the main for further studies in this fascinating science. The expression "post-Viennese positiveness" has been applied to the attitude often exhibited following return from that Mecca for ex-hospital internes, an attitude ridiculously shown at times by the absence of any deep interest except concerning diagnosis, in examples of disease of unknown etiology, a fetish-worship of a name or arbitrarily-constructed syndrome.

In surgery diagnosis has been followed by such prompt operative therapy in America, thanks to the skilful attainments of surgical technique, that on more than one occasion it has been necessary for more conservative surgeons of undaunted courage to protest against investigations limited to experimental human vivisection and the technical details thereto pertaining. With the present growth of small hospitals the especially lucrative nature of work in this field and the interminable graduation of men blinded to all else but diagnosis and therapy, American surgery is always in danger of the repetition of such world-echoing condemnations for attempting through skill what careful investigation might show the impropriety of.

Studies in diagnosis cannot be compared in value with those deeper researches of etiology which so often lead to newer conceptions or a more rational therapy. The constant change and modification of ideas, brought about by genuine investigation, always result in new additions to and re-classification of those groupings and syndromes of systematic diagnosis which in our unfortunate methods of teaching students learn to regard as fixed as the proofs of geometric deduction.

This statement hardly requires illustration, but I can scarcely forbear mentioning a few: Typhoid fever has in the last few years put forth a new branch, paratyphoid; dysentery stands revealed as at least bacillary and amœbic; the newer conceptions of some of the infectious diseases as bacteriæmia; the estimation of the opsonic index of the blood serum as an aid to the treatment of tuberculosis and other bacterial diseases. Many other examples will occur to you.

Unless you have already had a prolonged experience in post-mortem examinations and the laboratory work required to explain the changes revealed by such investigations, I would earnestly recommend that in the beginning post-graduate