

*Specialization.*—Specialization, in the modern acceptance of the term, may be said to date from the latter half of the nineteenth century, and is a necessary consequence of the great progress which has recently been made in medicine and surgery, and in the various sciences which are now regarded as subsidiary or auxiliary to them. Coincident with the developments in internal medicine, surgery and pathology there has been a corresponding improvement in the methods of diagnosis and systems of treatment, which renders it increasingly difficult—not to say impossible—to keep in touch with the enormous mass of literature which is constantly being published in connection with the various subjects which are now included under the general definition of medicine. This has resulted in the dividing up of both internal medicine and surgery into a series of single specialties, the number of which is steadily increasing. In addition the modern methods of microscopical, chemical and physical diagnosis have now become extremely elaborate, require special study and technique, and already possess an extensive literature. The various methods of treatment also represent distinct specialties, which are continually being added to and subdivided.

It will thus be seen that the great advances in medical knowledge have contributed to and necessitated the development of specialization, but while it is manifestly impossible for any one man to be intimately acquainted with the details of all the various specialties, it is advisable that specialization should be based upon a general training in the principles of general medicine. Fürst<sup>3</sup> emphasizes the fact that if specialization is carried too far there is risk of forgetting the unity of medicine as a whole, and that in the consideration of individual factors alone the inter-relationship of the various organs and systems of the human body may sometimes be lost sight of.

*Laboratory Work.*—The laboratory department has for some considerable time occupied a most important position in the equipment of the modern medical school, and the investigations carried out in it have been of the greatest assistance in solving many of the problems which confront the physician and surgeon. The employment of laboratory methods of research has rendered it possible to make a practically certain diagnosis in many diseases, and in many instances they also furnish definite indications for the treatment of these diseases. It, therefore, follows that an efficiently equipped pathological laboratory is now generally recognized as an essential part of the organization of a hospital, and

<sup>3</sup>Fürst, M.: "Der Arzt," Leipzig 1909, p. 52.