

accurately why and how? Is it not a serious reflection on the medical profession to maintain that there is and ought to be a great gulf fixed between the laboratory worker and the skilled physician?

I am not beset with anxiety for the army of laboratory workers, for I am certain that if the vast majority of the students are scientifically trained for professional practice the laboratory will take care of itself. It will always have recruits, and in the future more than now. Nor would I have you think that the laboratory is the only place where scientific work may be done. In the wide field of medicine there is an unlimited opportunity for the exercise of scientific precision. That this is so may be taken on the word of no less than Dr. James Mackenzie, of Burnley, England, whose article on this subject in the July issue of the *Western Canada Medical Journal* will amply repay perusal. In 1881, at the International Medical Congress, Dr. John S. Billings pointed out that the vast majority of the 20,000 papers and publications on medicine issued from the press in 1879 were worthless simply because of the lack of accuracy in the observations. Does the vast mass of literature on medicine now annually issued show any improvement in this respect? To judge from Dr. Mackenzie's observations it does not, for he claims that the exponents of medical science ignore the necessity for making accurate observations, and goes on to say: "Although they talk of their careful methods of observation, a critical study of medical writings will reveal the fact that they bristle with evidences of inaccurate observations. What they call observations are but a mixture of imperfect observations and unwarranted assertion. While they imagine that they are stating a fact they are actually at the same time recording an opinion."

If Dr. Mackenzie is right, and I believe he is, there is very great need for improvement. When medical literature teems with mistakes in observation and errors in diagnosis, what should be expected in those who do not record their observations? Is there any excuse for the mistakes that are sometimes made, except that those who make them are not trained as they should be?

It is evident that what is wanted is accuracy, and accuracy all the time. Clinical experience is of absolutely little value if it is not accompanied by the desire and will to be thorough and precise.

The habit of being thorough and precise can only be formed in the undergraduate course and under the direction and watchful control of the various teachers. That habit is every whit as valuable as, if not more so than, the most systematized information which he can acquire in his medical course. When that habit is firmly established in the