

which such a system of reciprocal instruction and inspiration would insure directly and indirectly to humanity in general might possibly be foreshadowed in the ecstatic flight of a poet's dream or a prophet's imagination, but certainly it cannot be done justice to in the commonplace terms and limitations of such a discourse as this.

A third and, perhaps, equally potent feature in the progress of modern surgery is the creation and growth of the so-called specialities. Notwithstanding the fact that it has been fashionable in certain quarters to sneer at, or even condemn, this more or less artificial division of labor; and notwithstanding the undeniable fact that some rather serious abuses have arisen therefrom, and it has not been an altogether unqualified blessing, still it is impossible to close our eyes to the fact that otherwise unattainable advantages have accrued to surgery by the devotion of certain individuals to more or less clearly marked out segments of the great field; and that such individuals should come to be known as ophthalmologists, gynæcologists and so forth, was no more than natural and proper, provided, always, that they started out in the first place as fully equipped general surgeons.

The ophthalmologist or the gynæcologist who is not a general surgeon is like a sailor whose powers as a navigator are confined to one side only of his ship. In other words, the exclusive specialist, the man who knows practically nothing outside of the narrow artificial limitations of his own specialty is *prima facie* a quack, and for his existence and his foolishness honest scientific specialism should not be held responsible. *Every surgeon need not be a specialist, but every specialist must be a surgeon.*

I don't know that there could be a much better criterion of the progress of surgery in recent years than a fair and impartial study of the authoritative utterances of some generally recognized master of a bygone age in contrast with what we are able to note as to the present state of the art.

For this purpose allow me to call your attention to the address on surgery delivered before the British Medical Association, at its annual meeting in Leamington, in August, 1865, just twenty-seven years ago, by James Syme, the then Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. It is but natural for