

gathering facts related to disease and carefully comparing and correlating them, and having ascertained the correctness of his conclusions by well conducted experiments, publishing his results for the advancement of his profession. And let me say here that the clinical ward, and the out-patient room, are as much places for scientific study as is the laboratory of the physiologist or of the pathologist. All unusual phenomena you may chance to observe at the bedside should be made the subject of scientific inquiry, and the theories suggested by your observations confirmed or disproved by experiments. Let us, however, warn you against publishing results of investigations that are incomplete, merely for the sake of contributing an article or a paper to a medical journal. To the investigator the old maxim "hasten slowly" should be a golden rule; and his researches should be conducted without hurry and with the greatest care. In the interest of the progress of medical science, the physician should publish no theories, arising from his clinical observations, as facts; he should make known to the medical world no results of the accuracy of which he is himself doubtful. Although we would advise you to publish the results of honest work, we cannot too strongly deprecate the unfortunate tendency on the part of many medical men to write papers when they have nothing in particular to communicate—papers which, for lack of original ideas, and the clumsy arrangement of borrowed thoughts, may fairly be considered as samples of literary patchwork.

Now that you have obtained your degrees in medicine, the very serious question arises of what you are to do with your laboriously acquired knowledge. Advice on this head will depend on your circumstances, pecuniary and otherwise. If you possess some means, and can afford to wait a year or two before settling down, we should recommend you to spend a year at least in some resident appointment in an hospital; or if you have already enjoyed the clinical opportunities of an hospital appointment, to spend a year or more in the medical schools of Europe. When you come to settle down, you will have the alternative of beginning practice in a city or town, or in the country. General practice, either in town or country, must be the work of the majority of medical men and women, and no branch of medical work is more honorable or affords better opportunities for the exercise of the highest qualities of heart and mind.

Nowadays, the tendency on the part of some young graduates