

tween general practice and medical science. The first is that while great, and in some cases enormous, strides have been made in the various branches of medical science and art, that of therapeutics has for the most part lagged behind with slow and halting steps. A lecturer will discourse eloquently upon the etiology, the pathology, the symptomatology, and the diagnosis of some condition, while the therapeutic aspect is disposed of in the last two or three minutes of his allotted hour. Yet treatment is the all-important thing for the future practitioner, not to mention the patient, an interested person of whom we are apt to lose sight at times in the excitement of our scientific ardor. Of what use is it to the medical attendant when sitting at the bedside of a sick person to ransack his mind as to Professor So-and-So's refinements and subtleties of diagnosis? Sick-room practice and laboratory research are for the most part poles asunder, and in the rough and ready tumble of general practice the advance has been made at a few points here and there rather than all along the line. So the general practitioner treats symptoms, trusts to a few approved remedies and throws advanced science to the winds—at any rate, until its advocates can furnish a convincing as well as a plausible case. In fact, he has been taught the lesson that much so-called knowledge is not really knowledge when tested in the crucible of experience. An amusing instance of misapplied high standard smartness recently occurred in a provincial centre of light and leading. A country surgeon sent a lad to the hospital of a neighboring town for the purpose of having a deep-seated abscess opened. A country surgeon sent a lad to the hospital professor of world-wide fame, but he was sent back home without operation because an examination of his blood did not afford the evidence deemed necessary for the diagnosis of internal abscess. Thereupon the country surgeon called in a brother practitioner to give chloroform, and speedily relieved his long-suffering patient of his dangerous burden. The truth of this story, however much it may be suggestive of science run mad, is vouched for on the best authority. It illustrates one of the more disquieting sides of professional life nowadays, namely, the decay of skilled clinical observation, and the exaltation of laboratory methods that are in not a few cases complicated, fallacious, and technical to a degree.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

Mark Twain's Rules of Health.

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday the great American humorist took occasion to call attention to the methods by