

can possibly be accomplished during the allotted time. The student subjected to this treatment has little time for the assimilation of the material thus provided, and we fear too frequently there is not the intelligent grasp of the subject there ought to be. Surely the student, especially the medical student who will be thrown sooner or later upon his own resources to treat disease, should be trained to have his faculties always on the alert. Nothing should be passed by without careful scrutiny, and every effort should be made to thoroughly understand each item of instruction presented to him. Professor Chiene used to tell us that he thought we, as students, had too much "spoon-feeding," and that he feared such methods of instruction would fail to develop that strength of character and intellect which ought to result were we compelled to think out and to solve for ourselves the knotty problems which present themselves in the study of the science of medicine.

Far be it from me to undervalue the importance of inculcating that respect for authority which is an essential element in the character of the true student, and yet there is a slavish respect for so-called authority which is exceedingly harmful. There are, unfortunately, men in our profession who are very credulous, and who are too ready to accept statements as true without sufficient proof of their accuracy. There are those who are apt to teach as true the statements made by an author simply because they are contained in the page of a book duly bound and labelled as a textbook on this or that subject. It is a very old doctrine, but we have much need of appreciating its importance to-day—

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

Even in the subject of Anatomy, where one would think there was little room for speculation, as the anatomist is supposed to deal with stubborn facts and no fictions, one occasionally finds erroneous views promulgated. I remember our worthy Emeritus Professor of Anatomy—Professor Richardson—at one time deplored the many erroneous statements which creep into anatomical literature. He likened a certain section of anatomists to a flock of sheep. "Let one man make a statement," said Professor Richardson, "and all these anatomists follow like sheep over a stile, and repeat the error an infinite number of times." That, perhaps, is a somewhat extreme statement, but it is characteristic of a man of wonderful independence of character who, as an excellent anatomist and a keen observer, possessed the qualities which constitute a keen critic.

The danger of accepting too hurriedly the dictum of a man who would pose as an authority, is greatly increased to-day because of the large number of individuals who wish to be considered authorities. The confusion is added to by the absurd desire on the part of many workers to rush into print and publish the result of labors, often before they have themselves been able to interpret the true significance of what appears to them to be a discovery, or