

gifts to churches, to charitable institutions, and to private individuals. Meanwhile, any medical men who are fortunate enough to meet with patients who are grateful as well as wealthy will do well to bear the above case in mind.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

The Specialist in Surgery.

Modern surgery presents a field whose vastness is due to investigators in special lines. In other words, the specialist is responsible for the fact that its boundaries are ever receding towards a horizon whose limits are beyond our ken. As simplicity and accuracy always result from all scientific efforts, however, the laborious researches of the original seekers finally end in the establishment of certain fixed principles and technical methods. Out of chaos order is evolved, and the measures finally adopted and recognized gravitate towards the central point of general surgery and become a part of it. The stupendous achievements of gynecology, for instance, are more and more tending to become a part of the province of the general surgeon, whose special skill makes it easy for him to learn new manipulations, and to acquire the needed dexterity. And so in the surgical services of our hospitals we may be present at a clinic in which the operator will prove to be equally competent in the various fields of gynecology, genito-urinary, and rectal work, and the treatment of nearly all surgical conditions and diseases. While a few men may have looked upon this as an encroachment upon what they had been led to consider as being territories of their own, it cannot be doubted that it not only is a beneficial growth, but that it is also one whose increase is inexorable and will never be stayed. That many, however, will always pause when confronted with the enormity of the region laid bare before them, is unquestionable. They will limit their studies to certain portions of the field, and there will, as long as our art endures, be men who will achieve special distinction along certain lines. But as the general knowledge increases it will become more difficult to acquire a well founded reputation as a specialist, and the work accomplished will hence become of a higher order. That this is an end devoutly to be hoped for is becoming more and more clearly apparent every day. Anesthesia and aepsis have so robbed of terrors the work of surgeons that there are many who step in where angels fear to tread, and, in the forcible words of Dr. Wm. M. Polk (*Medical News*, Feb. 1st, 1902): "The curse of our profession to-day is the half-baked, underdone specialist, and this country is full of them." The surgical specialist of to-day must begin as a general surgeon, and rise to specialism in virtue of peculiar aptitude for and