

moner ailments that he can recognize and treat them with sureness; he must be so equipped that approaching any case that presents itself he is able to utilize the appropriate modern methods of diagnosis, and, applying them, to come to a sound conclusion as to the nature of the disease, and from this be prepared to treat that disease rationally to the utmost possible degree. To do full justice to his patient, to possess for himself a quiet conscience, the practitioner must feel that he has accomplished all that is possible. I do not mean that he personally must be able to do everything for the patient, that he must combine all the specialties. But he must have that amount of knowledge which tells him either what he himself can do, or what may appropriately be done for the case by others rather than by himself.

What does this imply? It means that as regards ordinary ailments he shall already be thoroughly familiar with them. Lectures and books cannot afford that familiarity. He must have come into personal contact with them. This necessitates a long training in the hospital and the dispensary; in the dispensary that he may encounter abundant examples of minor ailments and more chronic ambulatory cases and learn thus to recognize their salient features; in the hospital, that studying day by day at the bedside individual examples of more acute disease, he may gain a knowledge of the evolution and course of disease processes.

Here I may point out is the weakest spot in American medical education. According to the Carnegie report there are not thirty schools in the United States and Canada that enjoy acceptable hospital facilities—nay, reading the report carefully, there are at the present moment not fifteen. Most schools, it is true, advertise an official connection between themselves and one or more hospitals and dispensaries, but on closer study it is evident that the connection is little more than on paper; either the wards are filled with pay patients who cannot be examined by the student, so that what is heralded as a hospital of three hundred beds is for student purposes but one of twenty or thirty—or by the rules of the hospital the free patient is free to elect whether to submit to examination by students or no; or while the hospital is open to the students the school staff has no status