

a lofty disdain of everything practical and who thinks it more noble to investigate a sick rabbit than to attend a sick man. "The trouble with men trained exclusively in laboratories is two-fold; first, they do not seem to see that a medical fact observed critically by a capable physician deserves as much credence and consideration as a fact developed by laboratory methods; and, secondly, the laboratory man offers positive opinions in a field in which he has no experience." We should remember, however, that clinical and laboratory knowledge are in no way antagonistic or mutually exclusive.

Among the other factors exercising an influence in the present forward movement, we must not overlook the importance of such institutions as the Academy of Medicine. It provides every year an extensive and valuable course of post-graduate instruction; through it our younger men are given an opportunity by presenting results of investigations or reports of cases, to establish themselves in the estimation of their confreres, who will not be slow to judge them by the quality of the work they bring forward; our senior men, in the seats of the mighty, are enabled to demonstrate that their places of trait and opportunity are worthily occupied, by presenting to the great body of practitioners composing the bulk of our membership what is latest and best in their several departments; our colleagues in the scientific departments to bring their investigations and discoveries before the men who can test out their value in practice.

The library, however, is the nucleus around which centres the life of the Academy. From the time of the Alexandrian school to the present, no great medical centre ever developed apart from good libraries. Osler has said: "It is hard to speak of the value of libraries in terms which would not seem exaggerated. To study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all. For the teacher and worker a great library is indispensable. They must know the world's best work and know it at once; they mint and make current coin, the ore so widely scattered in journals, transactions and monographs."

It should, therefore, be our steady aim to make this one of the great medical libraries of the world, and I believe many of us will live to see the day when this has been accomplished. It may be of interest to you to know that among medical libraries we at present rank second in Canada, 29th on this continent, and 76th in the world.

To indicate the possibilities of growth, it is encouraging to know that when Dr. Billings took charge of the Surgeon-General's library at Washington, in 1865, it contained less than 2,000 volumes, while at present it has on file 175,507 volumes, and its index catalogue has a reference to every rare case that has been recorded since the discovery of