

## **A few hints addressed to medical students about to visit the Parisian hospitals / by a physician.**

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END

A FEW HINTS

ACADEMY 29

MEDICAL STUDENTS

ABOUT TO VISIT THE

PARISIAN HOSPITALS.

BY A PHYSICIAN.

LONDON :  
JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOH.  
1800.

# A F E W H I N T S

ADDRESSED TO

## MEDICAL STUDENTS

ABOUT TO VISIT THE

## PARISIAN HOSPITALS.

BY A PHYSICIAN.

LONDON :

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

M D C C C X L I .

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## ON THE PARISIAN HOSPITALS.

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THE great importance which is now attached, both in and out of the medical profession, to its studies in foreign hospitals, has led a great number of its future members to follow their studies in those quarters. Hence it becomes a matter worthy of enquiry, and one also of much interest, to all who seek for and would further the improvement of their profession, how far this increasing custom is, or will be, productive of the latter object.

Now to some it may appear of little advantage in these days to study the practice of medicine in other countries, when such means are held out in our own for the attainment of the same, and these means yearly increasing as the increasing number of students and schools for their instruction incite a spirit of emulation amongst

their respective teachers, to pass that mediocrity which is no longer tolerated, whilst they vie with one another for the palm of excellence. To others the question puts itself in a different light, who argue that a field for information as is offered in the continental hospitals must, from the very nature of the thing, be highly beneficial to the student, and hence conclude that such an opportunity for improvement should be made available. These are the two opposite conclusions which may be drawn on the same subject ; and when all the circumstances of the case have been duly considered, there will perhaps be found to be something like reason in both of them. It will be necessary then to consider the subject in all its bearings, and when these have been fairly investigated, then from the general summary of facts let a conclusion be drawn, as to whether the system of visiting the Parisian hospitals is or is not to be promoted as beneficial to the students of the profession.

The first question that suggests itself is, what are the particular advantages offered in the Parisian Hospitals?

1. They offer a much greater field for general observation than those of this country. It must be remembered that it is experience, and experience alone, that will ever confer a thorough knowledge of the medical profession. Constant observation of disease, as it presents itself in the wards of an hospital, is the only sure means of instruction. Much that is useful and valuable is to be gained from the experience of others, but this is nothing in comparison with that which our own observation teaches us. Let a disease be ever so faithfully described, let its symptoms be ever so accurately detailed, yet all this without practical experience is of little help, and of poor avail. And the reason of this is obvious ; for as constitutions vary, so must disease. It is this constant variation in symptoms that occasions such doubts and errors amongst those who are called to treat them. Such have looked upon medicine as a science. They have learnt a set of symptoms which characterize a particular disease, and with this they remain content, so that when anomalous symptoms do arise, as in the nature of things they must,

then they have no resource on which to fall back but their own ignorance and want of practical experience.

The vast number of patients with which the numerous wards of the Parisian hospitals are filled, the diverse disorders and different stages of disease, which are therein to be seen, present a host of information to the enquiring mind, as it observes the symptoms that present themselves in different individuals labouring under the same disease. Fifty may be seen in fever, and out of these fifty, not two will be found to present the same phenomena of deranged system. In one the head will be the organ that is apparently most affected, in another the lungs, in a third the abdominal viscera, and so on, in each the disease portraying itself in different shapes. Some may think that if the general characteristics of a disease be understood, it matters but little as regards particulars; such however is not the case. There is nothing that gives such power to a medical man in his treatment of disease as confidence in himself, and nothing gives this confidence like a careful and continued study of the

phenomena of symptoms, which are the language of the system declaring its peculiar condition. But, it will be said, do not the London hospitals offer a sufficient field for observation? and again, is not an evil apt to arise from too much being presented to the mind at one time, namely, that whilst it attempts to grasp at all it observes, may it not lose the little it might otherwise have retained with advantage? This question will be better answered in the sequel, when the other points of the general subject have been considered.

2. *A second advantage* that is offered in the Parisian hospitals naturally results from their size, namely, the opportunity they afford of witnessing the *more ordinary* forms of disease, in their milder characters. From the limited number of beds in our London hospitals, those cases only can be admitted which are of an acute or otherwise urgent nature; so that there is very little opportunity of seeing and studying the more common and ordinary complaints of daily life. Now disease should be as much studied in its ordinary as in its extraordinary forms. A

thorough knowledge of these former characteristics will alone lead to an acquaintance of those that are more acute and dangerous in their nature. What are those cases that constitute the chief practice in the medical profession? They are cases, not of the acute and urgent type, but of slight indisposition and of a mild and apparently harmless nature. True is it, that the attention of the physician is rarely directed to these, but the general practitioner has them daily and hourly before his observation, and under his care; how important therefore is it that he be familiar with all their phenomena. Now it may be said that cases of this description require but little treatment, and that they would most of them get well of themselves. This would be a dangerous law to lay down, one the consequences of which might be very fatal, and one that is the result of inexperience. Symptoms, slight in the first instance, if neglected, will occasionally terminate fatally. Those which to the eye of the medical man appear but trivial and unimportant will sometimes defy all his skill to allay. The mild forms of disease are so intimately connected with those of an acute kind, that

they quickly run the one into the other. This is a fact which experience shows us to be true, and one of great importance to be aware of. The nature of disease depends so much upon the particular constitution it invades, and varies so much in proportion as the latter varies in different individuals, that phenomena daily arise which cannot but surprise the unwary. Thus is it that common catarrh in one will terminate in simple resolution, whilst in another it will go on to inflammation of some structure in the lungs. That which will occasion a mere temporary fright in one, in another will produce such a set of symptoms as may baffle all medical skill to overcome.

It is a knowledge of these facts that makes the mind of the medical practitioner alert to every kind of symptom, however slight or trivial it may apparently be. He learns to consider nothing in the phenomena of disease as unimportant. Knowing from experience its insidious nature, and its occasional rapid march, he is always as it were on the look out, and whilst there may be little to alarm, as far as exter-

nal appearances are concerned, he is nevertheless ready for whatever may happen. Diseases gain more ground, and become more fixed and rooted in constitutions, from neglect and indifference towards them in their early and mild stages, than from any other cause. The least deviation from the natural order of things in the human body should be looked upon as a warning. It declares that the body is somehow deranged, that its uniform mechanism is out of order. However slight the hurt may be, yet so wonderfully connected together, and so dependent on one another, are all its different parts and structures, that what affects one portion will soon affect the whole. It may cost but little trouble to arrange it at the commencement of the hurt, but let the machine become entirely impaired, let its structure be completely implicated, and then perhaps no powers of art will be able to restore it to its original healthy and natural condition. Such then is the importance of attending to and watching disease in its milder and more ordinary forms, and of understanding the peculiarities that are therein prone to arise. It is this

study which is more particularly afforded in Parisian hospitals. But are not cases of this description admitted into the London hospitals? They are admitted, but chiefly as **OUT-PATIENTS**. It must be allowed that there is a very great difference in studying a disease as it exists in a patient who is under our immediate eye and observation, and pursues a course of treatment which the discipline of an hospital obliges him to adopt, and the studying the same disease in those who, being left to themselves and their own inclinations, may take or dispose of their medicines prescribed just as their fancy may lead them.

3. *A third advantage* in the Parisian hospitals is the means they offer of studying *particular* disorders, such for instance as are peculiar to children, those of the skin and such like. These form a set of diseases, a thorough knowledge of which can only be obtained by a constant observation of them, *per se*. They are particular and peculiar in themselves, and should be studied by themselves, and whilst made the object of study, they should

be made the only subject of attention. When it is necessary for a knowledge of a disease, that its external characters be fixed and implanted in the mind, as its chief if not its only guide, it is quite impossible that such an end can be attained, unless the powers of the mind be entirely centered in the subject of study, which is the application of external phenomena as indicative of the internal state of the system.

There are no two classes of disease that are less understood in England than those of children and those that are cutaneous. The extreme youth of infants, their peculiar irritability of constitution when labouring under sickness, the total impossibility of gaining any information of their state from themselves, all this cannot but render such a subject one of great intricacy. Cases of this description can only be studied by their external phenomena. The general aspect of the child, its manner of breathing, the position in which it lies, the comparative attention it pays to external objects, the state of the pulse, and such like, are the chief guides for direction, and as such must

be carefully watched. Nor let it be imagined that this is the mere work of a day. In such cases, no pain or ache is complained of, for the suffering infant knows no words with which to communicate its ailings. In a truly pitiable state it lies, alternately crying and moaning, its little features alone indicating its disordered state, and calling for medical treatment. Treatment in such cases is too often empirical, and remedies are administered for what may be rather than for what really is the disease. To such a class of cases is the attention more particularly directed in the Hôpital des Enfans Malades at Paris. Here it is that, by watching day after day symptoms as they arise, the mind becomes familiar with the peculiar phenomena of disease as developed in children. Here it is that all the features of the case are faithfully and accurately recorded, every little change is carefully noted, the disease is watched in the sleeping and waking moments of the little sufferer; nothing is neglected that will tend to throw light upon the nature of the case, and thus by this careful observation of facts, this thorough investiga-

tion of symptoms, that practical experience is obtained, which removes all the doubts and difficulties that so often arise in the treatment of this class of disorders. When too it is remembered how extensive this class of patients is, and how constantly the attention of the medical practitioner is directed to their treatment, surely this of itself is enough to prove the importance of such a study, so that there may not be that uncertainty and misgiving, the result of inexperience and the cause of so much failure in this peculiar branch of medical practice.

Cutaneous affections form another large class of diseases, the study of which it is difficult to follow in the London hospitals. True it is, that isolated cases of eczema, of psoriasis, of lepra, and of ecthyma, are occasionally to be seen within them, but a solitary case of each is not sufficient to teach their peculiarities. So various are the forms of these affections, presented in persons labouring under them, as to render a correct diagnosis impossible but to the experienced eye. So closely do the different classes occasionally resemble one another, that the

greatest practice is required to distinguish the one from the other. Books may be written, definitions may be carefully and accurately given, plates corresponding with them, may faithfully portray the various diseases, but all this will be of little avail. Let any unbiassed individual study these affections in this manner. Let him learn all the diagnostic marks as laid down in the definitions of books, and with this knowledge let him be placed in the skin wards of the Hôpital St. Louis. The question is, will he recognize from his knowledge thus acquired each disease in its natural state, as it will there be presented to him ? If so, then must it be allowed that, as far as the study of the diseases be concerned, it matters but little whether such an hospital exist or not ; but if, notwithstanding all the previous application given to books, he finds he knows little of what he sees, and that perhaps he is more at a loss than if he had never studied the subject, then the evidence is clear of the advantages that are afforded in the ocular study of this class of diseases, as they exist in the human body. Books may convey an idea it

is true, but that idea will in all probability be a wrong one, to the minds of all but those who have actually seen the disease. The latter, from their experience, can supply the defects where they may exist, and discover the points of resemblance. In order to form a correct diagnosis, certain minute distinctions, certain slight marks must be attended to, which in the diseases themselves, as they exist in the body, are sufficiently apparent, but which it is quite impossible to delineate on paper. But whence, it may be asked, arises the necessity for this minute diagnosis? If two diseases resemble one another so closely, in all probability that which cures the one will produce the same effect on the other. Diagnosis in cases of this description is important for many reasons. In the first place, an eruption that is contagious may resemble another that in this point is perfectly innocuous. For example, the vesicle of scabies and eczema, the pustule of porrigo and impetigo in some manner resemble one another. Their distinction cannot be intuitively learnt, and yet for their treatment and for the satisfaction and caution of the patients

affected, it is of the utmost importance that a thorough distinction be drawn. Fortunate it is that in these days when an error does exist, it generally exists on the safe side, for the innumerable cases of porrigo that are said to be cured surpass all belief, when it is remembered that those, whose experience in the treatment of such affections is very extensive, declare them to be the most intractable of all cutaneous affections. It is not impossible that these said cases of porrigo are nothing more than certain forms of impetigo.

Another reason that renders diagnosis so important in cutaneous diseases is their occasional indication of a specific character, which consequently demands a particular treatment.

The characters of syphilitic eruptions are very peculiar, and these are occasionally developed in almost every class of skin affections. Cases of this description will yield to none of those remedies that are of use for the same disease when existing in its ordinary form, and therefore in this respect it becomes most important to make a correct diagnosis.

Here the cause of the disease is indicated by its peculiar features, and unless this be discovered, remedies will be of little avail, and the constitution will become more and more impaired, as it becomes the prey of the original exciting cause, for the longer the disease exists in the system, the more does it therein become rooted and fixed. Thus its every tissue and structure becomes by degrees implicated in the disease, which is at length declared incurable, and this because the nature of the complaint was not understood at its commencement, and its real exciting cause undiscovered.

A very celebrated French physician, M. Andral, has declared that, in his opinion, three fourths of the medical art consisted in making a correct diagnosis. How far such a statement as this is true need not now be considered, but it may be received so far as it shows the very great importance that has been attached to this particular point of medical study, by a man whose experience is perhaps greater than that of any other. Now the opportunity which the Parisian hospitals afford of studying disease in

general, with respect to accurate diagnosis, is another advantage of no little import. On the admission of a patient, his case is taken somewhat in the following manner: His general aspect is carefully examined; all his features are described with much precision; his particular make and form of body are next considered; the state of his general health is enquired into, with his habits of life. After this the physician proceeds to the history of the disease immediately before him, the manner in which it first developed itself, its cause and duration, till he arrives in his investigation to the state of symptoms as they actually exist, and are presented to his observation. Having ascertained all that he can from the patient, he next proceeds with care and accuracy to examine every organ of the body, to see how far the whole system is implicated in the disease. The state of the alimentary canal, the condition of the heart and arteries, the quality and quantity of the urine, the mode of respiration, the manner of the patient, whether dull or lively, his peculiar position of body, the state of his lungs as indicated by auscultation and

percussion—all this and more than this is carefully weighed and considered, ere the diagnosis and prognosis are given. When all these points, making up the general history of the case, have been duly considered, then and not till then is a conclusion drawn.

It is this minute enquiry into the history of a disease, it is this study of symptoms that makes the French physicians such celebrated diagnosticians: nor is such a method of little import in leading to a correct prognosis. The result of disease depends much upon the general state of the patient, not merely as that state exists when immediately brought before our observation, but as it has existed throughout life. Nothing should be considered as a matter of little importance, in guiding and directing the mind in points of difficulty. A favorable prognosis hastily given, because the patient appears to be strong or the disease mild, must inevitably lead to very injurious consequences. The mind must learn to base its conclusions on firmer foundations than these. There should be a thorough conviction in the mind of the practitioner himself, as to the case he has in

hand: he should reason with himself on it, and gather all he can from a minute investigation of its peculiar phenomena, and then draw his conclusion and form his opinion. Thus, not heeding what others say, because it may carry with it the semblance of plausibility, but resting on his own judgment that draws its conclusions from a summary of symptoms and of facts presented to him, will he act with determination. He will listen to what others have to say, if with others he has to deal; he will hear their opinion, and see how far it coincides with his own. If a difference exists, he calls in his reason to his aid: he knows upon what ground he rests, nor will he yield his point with whomsoever he have to contend, unless conviction tells him he is wrong. There is a great difference *between determination and obstinacy.* The former is the mind resting its decision on its knowledge of facts, its experience, and its own power of reasoning, whilst the latter is the mind solely depending upon its own ignorance. Confidence that is the result of ignorance soon betrays itself, for after all it is only semblled, and is assumed rather as a

blind to others, than as resulting from the real feelings of the individual himself.—Thus much for the advantages to be derived from the study of disease in the Parisian hospitals.

The next point to be considered is, what is to be learnt from the treatment of disease as it is there to be seen. Here, it must be confessed, exists the great deficiency in the scheme of medical study, a deficiency so great as to render a thorough acquirement of the medical art, as it must be known for practical purposes in England, quite unattainable. Diseases may be divided into two great classes, the curable and the incurable. The former may be subdivided into acute and chronic, whilst the latter are those merely whose symptoms may be palliated, and whose sufferings may be mitigated by appropriate remedies. The manifold cases that come under these two great classes form the extensive field of medical practice. It is difficult to decide which of these two is the most important. When it is remembered how numerous diseases of an incurable nature are, and how incessantly the practitioner is called upon to treat them, this of itself calls

for that study of their phenomena, that investigation into the action of remedies, as will enable the practitioner so to palliate symptoms and alleviate aches and pains, as to render the life supportable which would otherwise be a loathsome burden. Look at the cases of consumption. Many a valuable life may be prolonged for years, by a careful treatment of the symptoms as they are developed in this disease. Something more is required than a diagnosis of the state of the lung, as it may exist when brought before our observation. Whether the tubercle be but just deposited, or cavities already exist, our object should be to prolong life as far as our art will enable us.

Such is not the conclusion to be drawn from the treatment of these cases as witnessed in the Parisian hospitals. The argument there seems to be, if the disease is incurable, the sooner the patient is relieved from his sufferings the better for him. He may enter a hospital with perhaps symptoms of commencing phthisis pulmonalis. His case is taken with accuracy, and a diagnosis is carefully given. He is ordered a tisane, a draught to

alleviate his cough at night, and for his diet he is put upon *le quart*, a term familiar to all who have walked the Parisian hospitals, signifying a quarter of the ordinary allowance. This is the treatment to which the numerous patients of this description are subjected in most of the Parisian hospitals, and what is the result? A very few weeks send them to the grave, their end hastened by the neglected treatment they have received, and the miserable diet afforded them. Such a system as this is founded on very wrong and untenable principles, as if a disease is incurable, the sooner the patient is delivered from his sufferings and makes room for others the better. Conclusions like these are not such as will be endured in English practice. With us, life, *per se*, is looked upon as of immense value. If it can be prolonged by art for the space of twenty-four hours, both the patient and his friends eagerly desire it.

It is by a judicious treatment of many incurable diseases, that many a mother lives to see her children of an age to take care of themselves: a father may have time to

settle and arrange his affairs of business, and leave them unincumbered and in order. Surely then the treatment of these diseases loudly calls for the study and observation of him who would learn his profession for practical purposes. It must be confessed that in the Parisian hospitals, the practical part of medicine is considerably neglected in most diseases, whether curable or incurable, and in this respect the student has but little to remember, and much to forget.

The next point to be considered is, since such is the real state of things, what conclusion is to be drawn on the subject? When the medical student is first commencing his studies, and for the first time is introduced into the wards of an hospital, everything therein presented to him appears confused and unintelligible. His eyes and ears bewilder him, whilst he sees the numerous patients that occupy the several wards, and listens to their treatment as prescribed by the medical attendant. He perceives the awkwardness of his situation, but dares not ask a question from a foolish fear of betraying his own ignorance; feelings which must have

been experienced in different degrees by all, at their first introduction to the study of disease in the wards of an hospital. The mind, at the age when most commence this study, has but little power of reasoning with itself. It leans entirely on the opinions of others, and unable from its own inexperience to discover the errors which may exist in them, it gradually becomes the type of the original from which it is moulded. Thus, how essential is it that the principles on which the education of the mind be conducted, should in themselves be sound and correct! that the school wherein it is to gain its information and learning be one free from all unsound theories, and one in which nothing but solid and practical truths be taught! It is the early education of the mind that settles its after-stamp. If after being properly instructed in sound principles, it reaches that period when it will be able to reason for itself, and draw its own conclusions, then and not till then may it safely be trusted in any school, and may draw its information from any source; for its own power of reason will dictate to it that

which is rational and practically useful ; and this it will take to itself, whilst it rejects the opposite as worthless and injurious.

From what has been said it is very evident that the system of medical treatment, as pursued in the Parisian hospitals, is one but ill suited to the student just commencing his observations. He is unable, from his incapacity of reasoning, to discover wherein the great error of the system exists. He knows not how to draw the distinction between that which is worth retaining and that which should be rejected. He listens to the statements and opinions of those around him ; and believes all he hears, because it may emanate from persons of talent and experience. Thus, having no power of his own to guide and direct him, he is entirely dependent on others, and becomes a party to a system, the fallacies of which he would have discovered, had his mind been properly educated.

It must then be allowed that for his incipient or rudimentary medical education, the Parisian schools of hospital study do not offer a good scope ; but it does not fol-

low from this, that they are entirely to be abandoned. When the student has received a good and solid groundwork of professional knowledge from the medical schools at home; when he has reached that age that he begins to think and judge for himself; when he is no longer easily led away by the specious arguments of others; then is the time that with safety and with advantage he may visit the foreign hospitals; then will he look at things presented to him with the eye of reason. He will not be led astray by the ardour of youth, or its fondness for novelty, but with calm deliberation and sober judgment, he will discriminate between that which is really and that which is but nominally true. He will know how to weigh and try the opinions of others; and whilst he collects and retains all which is practically useful, he will reject all that is erroneous. To him such a study becomes of great importance, for he learns wherein the defects of the system exist; and this in itself will be a lesson to him in his future practice: and again, he profits by the vast field that is laid open to him for the obser-

vation of disease in all its variety of shapes and innumerable symptoms.

Having made these general remarks upon the advantages and disadvantages of the Parisian hospitals, and having come to the conclusion that they may be visited with much benefit, provided they be made the study of those only who are capable, from their previous experience, of judging of opinions and facts as they are presented to them, it now remains to offer a few hints to those thus about to finish their medical studies.

It need scarcely be remarked, in the first place, that the more the student knows of the French language, the sooner will he become acquainted with the general routine of business as it takes place within the hospitals. Should it however happen that he is quite unacquainted with it, this should not prevent his attending the hospitals, for it is extraordinary within how short a time the ear becomes conversant with the language. The very hearing it spoken is of great avail, for it centres the attention, which being directed to external objects collects the meaning of words by seeing the objects to which they

refer. The student should not then wait till he knows the language ere he visits the hospitals.

A few remarks may be offered, as to what situation is to be selected for residence.

It is a matter of experience known to all the medical men of Paris, that a large proportion of the medical students are attacked with fever within a very short period of commencing their studies. Now, though this may be accounted for in many ways, and may arise from various causes, yet it is generally allowed that the situation selected for their lodgings is of itself sufficient to be an exciting cause of disease. A more unhealthy situation than some of those small and narrow streets and allies that abound near the Ecole de Médecine cannot be conceived. In these parts the medical students chiefly reside, for the sake of convenience and economy: here they congregate together in the miserable *maisons garnies*, living, as they occasionally do, two or three in one apartment. The cheap restaurants or eating-houses that also here abound, only

add to the general wretchedness of the scene, wherein, under the semblance of comfort and economy, the student is offered his *dejeuner à la fourchette* for sixteen sous, and his dinner *de quatre plats* for twenty-two sous. To many this may appear of little importance, and to be little connected with the subject under consideration; but reason and experience will draw a different conclusion. Is it possible that the body accustomed to nutritious and healthy food, to all the comforts of English living, to fresh and wholesome atmosphere, can meet with so sudden and so great a change as this, and not be affected by it? What quarter then of Paris is to be selected by the student? If the faubourg St. Germain side of the Seine must be chosen, from its contiguity to the hospitals the rue de Seine St. Germain, or the rue des Sts. Pères, affords a far more healthy and open situation than the localities previously mentioned. True it is, that apartments may be somewhat more expensive, yet surely it is far preferable to sacrifice a small sum of money for the sake of health than to run the risk of becoming the victim

of low typhoid fever. The Tuileries side of the water is colonized to a great extent by the English, and is certainly preferable to the faubourg St. Germain. Here lodgings are to be had tolerably cheap, but depend much on situation. In the faubourg du Roule, the continuation of the faubourg St. Honoré, lodging may be procured at a moderate price, and the situation is very healthy, but it is some distance from Hôtel Dieu, La Charité, La Pitié, &c. It is, however, contiguous to the Hôpital Beaujon, to which M. Louis has lately been appointed, during the alterations that are taking place at Hôtel Dieu. Again, with regard to meals: one wholesome dish in a respectable restaurant's is far better than four offered for the same money in many of the cheap eating-houses. For two francs a good dinner may be procured, and a déjeuner or breakfast for thirty sous, in many a clean and wholesome restaurant's. The great difference that exists between French and English living must, more or less, affect every constitution, however strong it may be. It is scarcely possible to conceive of two greater extremes. In Paris there are a set of small

hotels, which profess to give English dinners. These are generally as dear as they are bad ; but one or two are to be found in the neighbourhood of the Boulevards des Italiens, where, at times, a tolerable English dinner is to be met with : in these, as must of necessity happen in places of like description, the company is not of the most select order ; but if this can be dispensed with, it is certainly worth while of those who are suffering from the dyspepsia of Parisian cookery to try for a time the change. Hints of this kind are worth giving, and they will be found worth receiving.

On the great object of attraction, the hospitals, it may not be out of place to preface the following remarks with this advice, namely, that the hospitals should not be walked for the first three weeks after the arrival of the student in Paris. The atmosphere of Paris is very peculiar, and this is exemplified in the numerous patients that enter its hospitals, the victims of its effects on the constitution. It is a question that is asked of every patient, how long he has been in Paris ? The first

month is the most trying period ; before, then, the student commences his labours, he should, to a certain extent, have become habituated to the change of air : his constitution should have time to accustom itself to the peculiarities of difference. Thus will he enter, with less risk, upon his arduous studies, and be less likely to catch the various diseases with which he is daily brought into contact.

What hospitals are worth attending ? An answer to this question depends much on the peculiar object had in view. There is an error into which too many fall, namely that of running about from hospital to hospital ; nay, some, not content with this roaming system of study, will amuse themselves whilst in a particular hospital in going from ward to ward, stopping a few minutes to observe the patients of one medical attendant, and then passing on to those of another. This is a system which cannot be possibly beneficial. Hereby nothing satisfactory can be attained, for how is it possible that the thoughts can be properly collected when the observation is distracted by so many different points pre-

sented to it? In order that anything like a solid and lasting impression be made upon it, the mind must be directed to one set of objects at a time, on the due consideration of which its whole attention should be fixed.

Of the Parisian hospitals there are none that offer such a concentration of medical skill as La Charité. This is situated in the rue des Sts. Pères, and contains between five and six hundred patients. MM. Andral, Cruveilhier, Velpeau, Rayer, Bouillaud, Fouquier, are all to be found within its wards.

He who would learn accurate diagnosis, who would study the use of the stethoscope in its mean, and not in its extreme; he who would learn pathology, by close attendance to the dead house, should follow the service of M. Andral. There are few so free from that national error, excitement, as this celebrated man. All that he sees he looks upon with the eye of reason, nor does he allow himself to be led away by prejudice. With a mind of extraordinary compass, he surveys all he sees round him

with care and reserve; and whilst he attentively listens to the opinions of others, he receives them with that caution which his experience teaches him they deserve. If he adopts a new idea, he only pursues it as far as his sound reason will dictate its limits. His analysis of symptoms in the history of disease, and his induction from it, show the power of his mind: year after year does he strenuously labour at the study of his profession with all the ardour and zeal of one commencing its difficulties. He looks upon the study of disease as boundless in its nature, and upon disease itself as a mystery which has been but little unravelled. M. Andral makes his visit every morning at 7 A.M.

Amongst the other physicians attached to this hospital is M. Fouquier, who is the clinical professor of medicine. Of him there is little to say, with the exception of his being very civil to foreigners, and quite one of the old school. He gives clinical lectures every morning, Thursday excepted, after his visit, but they are not worth the time he bestows upon them.

M. Cruveilhier is as precise in his diag-

nosis as in his anatomy. His wards abound in interesting cases, and he is always ready to be of use to those who ask his opinion on any subject of difficulty. He is seldom at La Charité before half-past eight, which, to most Englishmen, is an hour during the winter months far preferable to the seven of M. Andral.

M. Bouillaud is another physician of this hospital, who is much followed by all who are mad on the subject of the stethoscope. He is a complete Frenchman in every sense of the term. His great object seems to be to convince his followers that all medical men are in the wrong but himself: those who dare differ from him know nothing about the subject, and all who treat disease otherwise than he does are only sure to kill their patients. Such are the impressions which he attempts to make on the minds of his hearers, and the opinions that he holds forth in his wards. The following instance will somewhat verify the truth of this assertion, which will be detailed as it was noted at the time of its occurrence.

A case of peripneumonia was under the

care of M. Bouillaud, which he had treated with excessive bleeding. So reduced had the patient become that he implored he might lose no more blood, having been bled five times during the forty-eight hours since his admission: however, he was told it was all for the best, and at last he consented to lose another sixteen ounces; and, in addition to this, cupping-glasses were to be applied to the chest. The next day an improvement, according to M. B., had taken place; *the pulse was not so small, nor was the patient so weak*: another sixteen ounces were therefore ordered to be taken away, and a blister to be applied to the chest. "Here, then," remarked M. B., "was a case, which, with many others, fully proved the absurdity of M. Broussais's treatment of the same disease. If any man, (continued M. Bouillaud,) either in a medical society, or in his lectures on the treatment of disease, or in common conversation, should dare to say that he could treat peripneumonia by any other method than that of excessive bleeding," the method so peculiarly adopted, so particularly marked out by himself, "that man, whoever he might

be, was ignorant in the extreme, and would, in the generality of such cases, cause the death of the patient committed to his care. When the pulse has become weak and thready, when there is apparently general prostration of strength, when the patient is sinking under the exhaustion of depletion, and is crying out for strength, then is the time, (says M. B.,) to use the lancet ; then, if you hesitate, your patient is lost. Bleed him again, and you will give him strength ; again, and he becomes stronger still ; once more, and he is cured. This is the only true method of treating such cases." With such authoritative language did M. Bouillaud lay down the law ; and who could but fear that a patient, treated on such principles, would in all human probability sink under such a regimen ! Such, it might be foreseen, would be, and such was the result ; for within thirty-six hours of this boasting harangue, the patient breathed his last.

M. Rayer is a hard-working man, but his ideas like his written works, are rather the compilation of the opinions of others, than of any originality in themselves. It is worth

the student's while however, if time permits, to follow his service, in which great attention is particularly paid to the peculiar condition of the urine, as it exists in the different forms of disease.

So much for the physicians of La Charité, now for the surgeons.

M. Velpeau holds the preeminence amongst these, and justly so: he is a man of much genius, much practical knowledge, and much vulgarity. He is followed by a numerous train of students, which renders it somewhat difficult to get within sight of his patients. This evil is somewhat obviated by entering as a pupil of his dresser, or *interne*, as he is termed in the French language, by which means the patients can be visited at leisure, when the curious multitude are departed. His *leçon clinique*, which is given every morning, Thursday excepted, after his visit, is worth attending, as from it may be collected his theories in different disputed points of surgery. At the same time he performs any operation that may be necessary.

Of the other surgeons who belong to this hospital, there is but little to be said. M.

Jardy is a man of some note, and one of the professors attached to the Ecole de Médecine.

It is clear from what has been said of La Charité, that its wards can boast of some of the most celebrated medical men of the day, and there is no hospital in Paris that offers such a concentration of medical skill. He who would really profit by what he has to see and hear, will do well to devote himself, his time and study, to what is herein offered him, and though he may not have MM. Louis, Chomel, Roux, and the like, yet he will find himself amply repaid, and his time well spent, if he applies himself to the study of his profession in this quarter.

No hospital is better known to us by name than Hôtel Dieu. It was the largest in Paris, containing at one time 1200 beds, but its size is much diminished owing to the improvements which are being made in its immediate vicinity, which have rendered it necessary to pull down one of its largest wings.

Of the surgeons attached to this hospital are men whose names are familiar to all in the profession, as MM. Roux and

Breschet. The former makes his daily visit, at half-past six in the summer, and at seven in the winter months, and this is followed by his clinical lecture in the amphitheatre of the hospital. M. Breschet commences his rounds at nine o'clock.

There are no less than ten physicians attached to this hospital. Amongst the most celebrated are Chomel, Magendie, and Louis. M. Chomel lectures from nine to ten on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

Another hospital that is generally visited by foreigners is the Hôpital St. Louis, in which an opportunity is particularly afforded of studying diseases of the skin. It is situated within five minutes' walk of the rue du faubourg St. Martin. One of the streets leading out of this, called the rue des Recollets, will be found the direct way to this hospital, which is situated in the rue de l'Hôpital, directly in front of the canal that is at the end of the rue des Recollets. Here it was that Alibert and Biett collected their vast mass of information, and were to be found morning after

morning, in the midst of their squalid band of patients. But now no more remains of them than a dirty marble bust of the former,—soiled by the hands of the numerous patients that mount the staircase where it is placed—to mark the haunt of this once celebrated man. Time makes sad changes in our profession as in every other, and to this the Hôpital St. Louis bears ample testimony. MM. Lugol and Emery are the only remains of the former days of St. Louis.

M. Lugol is, in every sense of the term, a great man. He styles himself “*Le grand lustre du monde.*” It is curious to follow him in his scrofulous wards, and there hear him descant on the miraculous powers of iodine. There to see him, with his dictating nod of the head and knowing thump of the stick, lay down the law as he passes from bed to bed. As is too often the case with those who lay claim to the discovery of any new theory, M. Lugol is at daggers drawn with most of his medical brethren at St. Louis. He now has the wards which belonged to M. Biett, and he has no longer to deal exclusively with scrofulous patients, as of old, but his

wards are occupied with patients labouring under diseases of the skin, as well as those affected with scrofula.

M. Emery has between eighty and ninety medical cases under his care. Of him there is not much to say. He has been an army-surgeon, and excels more in surgery than in medicine. On Monday morning he affords an opportunity of studying the use of the speculum, as he then examines between twenty and thirty patients who are labouring under diseases of the vagina, uterus, and rectum.

A great loss to St. Louis is M. Cazenave, author of "*Les Leçons de M. Biett*," a work equalled by none for conciseness and accuracy of style. M. Cazenave was appointed to the service of M. Biett, during his absence from the hospital, and there are few men to be found so ready to impart information to others, and so capable of it as M. Cazenave. His knowledge of diseases of the skin is far superior to that of any other medical man in Paris of the present day, and it is much to be regretted that he was removed from his sphere of usefulness, at the death of M. Biett. The lectures which he gave were most instruc-

tive in their details, as he exemplified the various diagnostic marks of cutaneous diseases by living examples. His place has been taken by M. Gibert, who has also written a work on diseases of the skin, but in no way comparable with that of M. Cazenave. The work of the latter should be studied by all who are about to commence walking this hospital; for a careful perusal of its details will be found greatly to assist the student, when commencing this difficult branch of the profession:

There are what the French call *consultations* daily at this hospital between nine and ten, Thursdays excepted. These consultations are for patients that come for admission into the hospital, and also for out-patients. They are well worth attending, as at them are to be seen the numerous diseases of the skin, of a milder and more ordinary form, together with those of an inveterate character. There are generally to be found at these consultations those who are ready to explain the diagnostic marks of these most intricate affections. There are extensive surgical wards at St. Louis, but since the death of

M. Richerand, they have not offered much worthy of notice. There are also wards in this hospital for lying-in women. The baths of this establishment are on a large scale, and should be visited for the sake of information.

There is no regularity as to the hours when the medical men visit their patients here: they generally suit their own convenience.

Another hospital that is usually visited by students is the Hôpital du Midi, or des Vénériens. This is situated at the other extremity of Paris, beyond the Jardin du Luxembourg, at the end of the rue St. Jacques.

Here it is that M. Ricord is to be found, and here are to be seen the experiments on which he founds his system. He considers it impossible, in certain cases, to decide whether a sore be chancre or not, and again whether the discharge in gonorrhœa proceed from inflammation of the mucous membrane or from internal chancre. In order therefore to remove all doubt, he inoculates some other part of the body, as the

arm or internal part of the thigh, with the matter taken from the part affected. Supposing the inoculation produces specific pustule, then he decides that the case is that of chancre; but if not, he attributes it to another cause, and not that of a venereal infection. In cases too of suppurating bubo, unattended by any sore or discharge, when the abscess is opened, he inoculates to see how far the disease be specific in its nature. His theory is satisfactorily borne out by his experience, which is perhaps greater in this peculiar branch, than that of any other man. His treatment of phagedenic ulcers is interesting and very efficacious.

M. Ricord is, beyond all doubt, a man of much talent. His great fault is his tendency to suit himself to the company that follows him in his visits, when he much lowers himself by the vulgarity of his remarks. This is also the case in his lectures, when he indulges in that low familiarity of style, that ill becomes a man who would gain the respect and esteem of those who look to him for information. His chief days of attendance are Tuesday and Friday, at eight o'clock in the

morning. His lectures commence in March, and are given twice a-week.

Near to this hospital is the Maison d'Accouchement, or Hospice de la Maternité. There is much difficulty in gaining admission here, as no medical man has a right within its wards, excepting those that are officially attached to it. There are between four and five hundred beds within it. The eighth month of utero-gestation is the ordinary period of admission. Each delivery is under the direction of the most efficient pupil amongst the sages femmes, who is again under the surveillance of the sage femme en chef. If any unusual presentation should occur, or any other circumstance to endanger the life of the patient, the chief accoucheur is directly summoned to give his aid and advice.

La Pitié is another celebrated Parisian hospital. It is situated at the south side of the Jardin des Plantes. M. Lisfranc is its chief surgeon. He gives clinical lectures, and is celebrated for his diagnosis in diseases

of the uterus. Five physicians are attached to this hospital, where also some very valuable lectures are given on diseases of the eye.

The Hospice de la Salpêtrière is an establishment on a very large scale. It contains between five and six thousand beds, entirely for women. Of these a certain number are appropriated to old and infirm persons, others are set apart for patients labouring under incurable diseases. Here it was that M. Cruveilhier compiled his admirable work on pathological anatomy, the dead-house affording no small supply of diseases, in their most hideous forms. A certain portion of this establishment is allotted to those who are of unsound mind, their number varying from a thousand to twelve hundred. The treatment peculiarly adopted towards these poor creatures in this asylum, is well worth the observation of all those who take an interest in this branch of medical study. The system herein pursued is such as cannot but make all who are witnesses of it earnestly desire that it was more generally followed in

our English asylums. No harsh measures no ill treatment, no chains or manacles, are here to be met with. Kindness and gentleness of manner are strictly enjoined upon all those who are intrusted with the care of these poor creatures ; and thus is it that this treatment, in conjunction with care to the state of the body as regards air and exercise in open gardens, instead of confined prison-like walls, is productive of most beneficial effects ; and the annual bills of mortality and average amount of cures, as compared with the same in this country, are unanswerable proofs that England has much to learn from the example of France.

What Salpêtrière is for women, Bicêtre is for men. It contains about 3000 patients. Here too the treatment of the insane is equally good.

The hospital for sick children is situated at the end of the rue de Sevres, or the rue de Vaugirard. Children of both sexes are here admitted, from the age of two to that of fifteen. It contains about 600 beds, a small

number of which are devoted to surgical, and the rest to medical cases.

Of the other hospitals, it will suffice merely to mention their names. These are the Hôpital St. Antoine, situated in the rue du faubourg St. Antoine; the Hôpital Necker, rue de Sevres; the Hôpital Cochin, in the faubourg St. Jacques; and the Hôpital de l'Ourcine. This latter is for women who are affected with syphilis; but not for the prostitutes, all of whom are sent to St. Lazare when labouring under this disease. The Hôpital des Cliniques is situated exactly opposite the Ecole de Médecine. It is more particularly set apart for clinical observation, as its name implies. It contains a certain number of beds for lying-in women, and lectures are given in it to the sages femmes. A light, in the entrance passage, indicates that an accouchement is taking place.

Much is said and thought of in England respecting the means of dissection as offered in the Parisian schools. Like in most things

that are greatly extolled, the reality falls far short of the conception. True it is that subjects for dissection are far more numerous than those in England. In this point there is certainly a superiority. When, however, the accommodations that are provided in the Parisian dissecting rooms are taken into consideration, the preference will be given to those of our own country. Let the student who has been accustomed to the dissecting rooms in England enter those in Paris: the stench which first assails his nasal organs is almost insupportable, from the system of smoking which is carried on within them. Again, there is nothing like decency or order kept up; portions of viscera, detached limbs, pieces of dissected muscle, fat, and cellular membrane, are seen to cover the floor. It is necessary to be careful how we tread, lest we should stumble against some limb lying in our way, or slip up, from stepping on some viscid substance that may be strewed upon the ground.

All this may have nothing in it that is offensive to those who are accustomed to it;

but to such as are not habituated to filth and sickly stenches, it is disgusting, if not insupportable. It may be said that dissection, from its very nature, can never be made a clean occupation, and therefore that it will not do for those who are engaged in it to be too nice and particular.

There is much truth in such a remark; but at the same time it is to be remembered, that there is a mean in all things, and whilst it is allowed that in dissection much is to be endured that is unpleasant, yet surely this is no reason why things should be made worse than necessity obliges them to be. If there are to be found those who, from their very nature, are fond of dirt and filth, and who will be rather instrumental in causing than in preventing its existence, yet such are not the generality of the English, and with such a people will they be found to have but little congeniality.

It must be allowed by all who have any experience, that the dissecting rooms in England are far preferable to those abroad, as far as cleanliness, order, and comfort are

concerned ; and though it is much to be regretted that the scarcity of subjects for dissection is so great a drawback to its study, yet it is to be hoped that this defect will ere long be rectified by the legislature, who certainly have it in their power to substitute a more effectual system than that now in operation, the great cause of the existing evil. Once let it be rectified, and the dissecting schools in England will be the first in the world.

There are two great dissecting schools in Paris. One is close to the Ecole de Médecine, and adjoins Dupeytre's museum of morbid anatomy ; the other is situated near the hospital of La Pitié, and is called Clamart. This is one of a more modern date than the former, to which it is thought preferable. It is certainly situated in a more airy neighbourhood, and its accommodations are somewhat of a better order. It is necessary for all those who intend to dissect, to become pupils of the Internes, who have the choice of all subjects brought for dissection. Each interne has four pupils, who are attached to

one subject, that is usually changed every ten days or a fortnight. The sum for the season, which lasts about five months, is about 150 francs, or six pounds. To those who would be free from the inconveniences of the common dissecting rooms, a means is offered of dissecting in private, by becoming the pupils of the overseer of the school, who has private rooms set apart for this purpose. He of course demands a sum of money in proportion to the convenience offered, and this more especially of the English, who are always supposed to have a superabundance of money, wherewith they can afford to pay handsomely.

There are private lectures given on anatomy in rooms near the Ecole. These are intended for such as are preparing for their examinations. Of the lectures at the Ecole de Médecine, a list may be seen at its entrance, which states the hour at which each is given.

Medical lectures too are held at the Sorbonne, where M. Magendie is to be seen

and heard. He is a great object of attraction, but is very irregular in his attendance.

The library at the Ecole is replete with all the most celebrated standard medical works, and is open to all who wish to avail themselves of it, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

There is an English medical society in Paris, where the medical periodicals of the day are taken in, and to which is attached a small library of English medical literature. Papers are read here on certain fixed days, by different members of the society, on medical or surgical subjects. Galignani's paper is also taken in. The room belonging to this society is not far from the Ecole.

Diplomas will occasionally be found of use, and should be taken abroad by all those who have them. No English practitioner is allowed to practice amongst the French unless he have a diploma from the French Academy of Medicine. He is allowed to practise amongst his own countrymen, but for this he must obtain permission.

Having finished these few hints, it now only remains to offer a few summary remarks in conclusion.

We will suppose that the groundwork of medical knowledge has been formed at home; that the necessary examinations have been passed, and that the student is for the first time introduced to the wards of a Parisian hospital. One word to him before he commences his new walk.—Reason with yourself on all you hear. Be careful that admiration for individual talent does not lead you astray. Mark facts as they will daily be brought before your observation with care and attention. Learn to form your own opinion of each case as it shall be presented to you, and see how far it agrees with that of the practitioner whose service you follow. Make your own diagnosis and prognosis, and commit your reasons to paper, so that the termination of the case may teach you how far you have been right or wrong in your opinion formed. Supposing the case prove fatal, previous to the post-mortem examination, settle in your

own mind, from the general phenomena of symptoms presented during life, what you expect to find at death. Thus you will gain information by the discovery of your mistakes, and your mind will be strengthened by rectifying its errors. Thence will you derive that self-confidence, and well-grounded assurance, which will enable you to cope with all the difficulties you will meet with in the future practice of your profession, and in time you will fairly and honestly triumph over all the assumed and pretended knowledge that will oppose itself to your advancement.



