

**M0019011EA: Stokes: Introduction to the use of the stethoscope 1825:
preface**

Publication/Creation

March 1962

Persistent URL

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bours, he may in truth exclaim with the poet—

“ Non omnis moriar ; multaque pars mei
“ Vitabit libitinam.”

I might here enter into a long dissertation on the utility of the stethoscope, but such is not my intention. It is a common objection to the use of this instrument, that it leads to no practical results, and therefore that it is more useful to the pathologist than to the physician. But those who make use of such an objection, only betray their ignorance of the use of the stethoscope, and, like unjust judges, pronounce sentence without examining into the merits of the case. The stethoscope, besides its vast importance in the diagnosis of a most difficult class of diseases, *does* lead to many useful *practical* results. Let us take the cases of pneumonia and of pleurisy, two of the most common and severe affections of the thoracic cavity; where a daily examination by means of the stethoscope, points out the progress of the disease, its exact seat, the effect of our remedies, the necessity of their repetition,