

The cultivated general practitioner. May this be the destiny of a large majority of you! ... You cannot reach any better position in a community; the family doctor is the man behind the gun, who does our effective work. That his life is hard and exacting; that he is underpaid and overworked; that he has but little time for study and less for recreation – these are the blows that may give finer temper to his steel, and bring out the nobler elements in his character.

(Source: The Student Life, In Aequanimitas, 410-1.)

Medicine is learned by the bedside and not in the classroom. Let not your conceptions of the manifestations of disease come from words heard in the lecture room or read from the book. See, and then reason and compare and control. But see first. No two eyes see the same thing. No two mirrors give forth the same reflection. ... Live in the ward.

(Source: Thayer WS. Osler The Teacher, In Osler and Other Papers, 1.)

Superfluity of lecturing causes ischial bursitis. ■ (Source: Bean WB. Sir William Osler: Aphorisms, 46.)



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