

Pathy for med. an ~~unpleasant~~ ^{interesting} choice

Medicine was a science that I came into indirectly from a primary interest in another field. I did not choose to study medicine, as many students did - but not all - because of a professed dedication to humanitarian ideals. I took it up as a logical sequel to an interest in chemistry, which had its inception in High School under the inspiration of a teacher who introduced me to Slosson's Creative Chemistry, at a time when the boundaries between the sciences were beginning to be blurred by over-lapping areas of involvement. The most exciting advances in chemistry during my undergraduate years were, so it seemed, being made, not in pure organic chemistry as suggested by Slosson, but in the chemistry of biological ~~processes~~ functions. To enter this ~~field~~ burgeoning

field, a knowledge of biology and physiology was essential and so I decided that I must go to medical school, not to ~~do good~~ ^{alleviate} human suffering the better truth through science ~~in the world~~, but ~~rather~~ to pursue ~~a scientific career~~

~~which the quest for truth came before wealth.~~ ^{was the key} Thus I was enough h

conditioned by idealism to be shocked during my first year in medical school when ^{to} some of my classmates, ~~discussing~~ ^{chinking the} their

reasons for ~~deciding to become doctors~~, frankly admitted to choosing medicine ^{to make money} as a good way to get rich. Looking back

on those post-World War I boom days I can understand now that

with so many people primarily ~~preoccupied~~ with money, it was inconsistent with the temper of the time not ~~strange~~ that students of medicine should likewise be

^{preoccupied} infected by this concern.

~~Ever since~~ From the beginning of memory another influence has paralleled the birth and development of my fascination with science. Having a content of science also, ~~the precedent~~

this precedent absorption was however heavily ~~loaded~~ weighted on the ~~with~~ emotional and artistic ~~aspects~~ side, the latter bearing ~~the~~ fruit only years later, whereas the former was manifest early by an attraction to nature. As a child all living things were a source of delight to me, not expressable or even understood in this term, but ~~these~~ were tremendously attractive. I still remember clearly some of the small things - objects of nature - I found out doors. Tiny potato-like tubers that I dug out of the ground in the woods behind my house, orange and black spiders sitting on ~~a~~ silken ladders in their webs, sticky hickory buds in the spring, and yellow, filamentous ~~with~~hazel flowers improbably in November are a few that I recall. I did not think of them as beautiful, I am sure, or as wondrous phenomena of nature, although this second reaction would come closest to the effect they produced on me. As children do I took it all for granted, but I believe it is not an exaggeration to say, ~~these~~ ~~/I~~ ~~loaded~~ ~~these~~ ~~all~~ judging from the feeling of satisfaction they gave me when I rediscovered them each year, ~~that~~ that I loved them.

About this time I developed a capacity for observation that has lasted all my life: a capacity involved with the natural world, but deficient in other areas, as for example in regard to people and cities or the interiors of houses. Thus my wife could change the decoration in our living room and I might not notice it for weeks. But out ~~of~~ doors I saw a great deal and ~~without trying~~ ^{engrossed with nature,} ~~habitually~~ became ~~preoccupied~~ ~~with~~ ~~many~~ ~~activities~~. Very soon my attention was drawn to birds, a

very common interest, but in my case the focus has sharpened through ^{the years} ~~my whole life~~ ^{become} and ^{youthful} ~~directed away from~~ ^{collecting to} ~~knowing~~ ^{about} birds and later to photographing them. Butterflies

were also a preoccupation which took the form of collecting ^{also} until it became sublimated/in photography. But I never considered making a career in natural history, these interests being only a background in my life until years later they preempted my attention.

Entering medical school is an exciting experience. Suddenly you are confronted with ^{an entirely} a wholly new ~~set of~~ point of view towards biological phenomena. Biology deals with living processes ^{through} concerning which the student ^{adopts} an objective attitude, and is encouraged to adopt this attitude, ^{with} because he is observing a world outside himself in which he is not personally involved, and is a better observer in proportion ^{to} has no personal involvement. A protozoan, an insect, ^{and his looking at} plants, an amphibian, and even a mammal is a creature towards which there is little difficulty in assuming a completely detached attitude. But as soon as he begins to study the human body, whether grossly or histologically, he finds himself ^{no longer} ~~not~~ looking through a newly opened window ^{into a fantastic world outside nature} but into a mirror where he ~~and he~~ sees ~~there~~ only himself. A degree of objectivity towards oneself is certainly possible though on a much different level ~~than~~ ^{in with} from that towards the world ^{we peruse} beyond ourselves. To attain certain kinds of self objectivity requires ~~life-long~~ ^{it is} for some ^{possible} life-long effort ^{if ever}. The traditionally hardboiled first year medical student is only protecting ^{with} encasing himself in a shell of not too impervious concocted ^{of} out of his very vulnerability. But not only is he thrown suddenly face to face with his ^{physical self} normal body, he is subjected to a view of all its mal-functions and the disease processes ^{wholly} which may/corrupt it. This can be quite a shock, while ^{but is also} at least

possibly he ~~substitutes~~ personal involvement and reports to his ~~audience~~ ^{audience} identification becomes a ^{more} ~~account~~ ^{of the actual world} of his environment.

high adventure
~~it is an experience~~ which carries him along like a cresting
 wave over many ~~reefs of~~ submerged reefs of ~~doubt~~ apprehension.

Soon after entering medical school I met a man whose
 influence on my life lasted ~~for over a decade~~ was more profound
 than my highschool chemistry teacher, ~~or~~ ^{more than} any other human beings
 except my father and mother; and ~~lasted more than~~ ^{it for} a decade. He
 was Dr. Hans Zinsser. Every one of my generation in Harvard
 Medical School knows who Dr. Zinsser was, ~~what he did~~ ^{was the significance of} public,
~~his professional life was~~ and what knows the significance of his
 professional life as a bacteriologist and perhaps as a writer
 and poet, and ~~knows~~ ^{has experienced} the impact of his brilliant teaching on
 second year students, but no one knows what he did for me except
 myself. I was subject to all the other influences he exerted
 through his dynamic personality on the other students but much
 more besides. Painful as the process ~~was~~ eventually became, ~~Dr.~~
 Dr. Zinsser brought to focus within my mind and consciousness
 a clarification which made possible a self-appraisal that led
 to an understanding of my potentialities and aspirations, ~~But~~
 This was a by-product of his intent and hence was difficult
 for him to accept, but was a gift to me for which I ~~am~~ shall
 be forever grateful. But I am grateful to him also for the
 greatly expanded outlook he made possible for me, for ~~his~~ the
~~friendship~~ and advice which I did not always follow, for
 his understanding, and for his friendship.

In two years I got to know Dr. Zinsser very well.

I was persona grata in his house on Beacon Hill and on his
 farm in Dover, at any time of day or night, I was welcomed ~~into~~ ^{as one of}
 his family, and in fact he later told me that he loved me like a
 son. His love I returned with affection and the greatest admiration,

I would like to him for advice on any problem that best me emotional or intellectual and
 he would give me something of his attention and time.

but nevertheless ~~but~~ it was a responsibility that weighed heavily on me at times. ^{and he was this and it had a good deal to do with his romantic affection for me}
 In many ways we were alike. He was an ~~extreme~~ idealist in his lives personal and professional ~~life~~, which I welcomed as a confirmation of my own feelings. ^{The light of} But ^{overriding} romance in human relations has a way of losing its brilliance and settling down, (if one is lucky, to a warm glow. Dr. Zinsser knew and accepted the inevitability of this kind of maturing of human relations, ^{but} being possessed of an incorrigible ego, ^{a sublimation of his personal} (he had to sublimate his nostalgias into ~~distance~~ ^{the intellectual romance of science which had no})

^{Our reflections suggest that though I do not have the same drive to live but living at its basic}
~~limits~~ the limitless intellectual romanticising of science was inevitable and necessary. Moreover, his drive for ^{constant} scientific fulfilment became almost an obsession ^{was} as he talked about his breakthroughs in research and in that of his associates. Research is motivated ^{commonly either by a desire for detailed information} generally in two (different) ways: by a meticulously painstaking - even plodding - ~~search for~~ ^{note} gathering of information from which a construct of a situation or a phenomenon can be built; or by ~~an~~ inspirational insight which initiates ~~experimental~~ experimentation. The two approaches, of course, complement one another, but Dr. Zinsser, because of his romanticism, attached great value to the latter as inseparable from the creative process by which the great discoveries are made.

^{gone to} Having ~~entered~~ medical school as a step ~~in the~~ ^{direction of} along ^{the} path of a life dedicated to science it is obvious that Hans Zinsser's influence should have diverted me from biochemistry to bacteriology. In both sciences chemistry was fundamental and, with developments in immunology, ^{it} was assuming ever greater importance to ~~the~~ an understanding of disease and the resistance to disease. There was an atmosphere of imminent discovery ~~that~~ during the twenties that together

with the encouragement and inspiration of a man like Zinsser fostered in his associates a fever of excitement. I was fortunate in being allowed to join the department in a minor capacity in my last year in medical school and to take up research on bacteriological problems.

I think I can truthfully say that I worked diligently ^{on} at various ^{myself} problems none of which ever developed under my efforts into any promise of significant discovery. Inspirational insight continued to escape me in spite of much encouragement from Dr. Zinsser and so I plodded along with humdrum manipulations called experiments that never seemed to lead anywhere. A facet of Dr. Zinsser's romanticism was a belief that a dedicated researcher would loose himself in his work to such a degree that he would sooner or later have to be rescued by his colleagues from starvation ^{or} and nervous collapse. ^{that I did not live} I never reached that ^{immersion and I felt guilty for living up to the expectation} state of absorption, and although I did often work at night it was largely because I felt guilty not to. And when I took long week-ends off or summer vacations I always felt ~~under~~ his disapproval. But it seemed worse to me to spend long hours and days in a laboratory and get nowhere. I had started with the belief, which became a hope, and finally despair that somehow I would discover something. ^{unrealistic} So my romanticism/at last ^{in regard to my own capacity} degenerated into disillusionment. I was unable to starve myself ~~or~~ nor did I suffer nervous collapse, but I did discover that perhaps I was not cut out for this kind of a career.

So far as my own capacity was concerned.

Probably, ^{partly} as solace for my failure at research I began after a lapse of several years to take ^{up} photography ~~again~~ and observe nature again; and although in a lot of effort I transferred to another laboratory where I worked ^{dedicately} on a biological problem under another man.

~~My~~ the seeds of my interest in nature had by now taken root
 too deeply and were beginning to put forth their own foliage.
 From time to time during this period I had shown my photographic
 work to Alfred Stieglitz who had given me encouragement, but
 never once had suggested that I contemplate giving up science.
 Finally on seeing my most recent ~~of~~ photographs in 1939 he
 offered to exhibit them. His was the most sought for gallery
 of art in New York, ~~and~~ in the whole western world, for he was the
 first to bring the great modern French painters to this
 hemisphere. To have your work exhibited at An American Place
 was ~~a distinction~~ an honor, ^{a distinction} ~~and a recognition~~
 that over ^{whelmed} me. Under the stimulus of this recognition
 I at last decided that I must make the break with science.

I do not want to leave the impression that I regard
 the years spent in a laboratory wasted years. Without them
 I might never have been able to discover my talents in
 photography and art; and without Zinsser I might well have
 gone on into medical practice ^{in which} ~~where~~ I might have prospered well
 enough. But I do feel that whatever creative potential I have,
^{the end of}
 although one ~~never can be sure~~ know ~~where~~ the untried road
^{in medicine}
~~would have led~~, would not have found ^{the} fertile ground it
 needed to bear fruit. Moreover, who could renounce an
^a association that cast ~~the~~ ^a light ^{on} of self examination ~~on~~ ^{on} him
 in the impressionable years of youthful enthusiasms and
 idealism. Hans Zinsser opened my eyes, by his expectations
 of me, by his personal dedication, and by the ^{honesty} ~~and~~ integrity
 and zest of the life he lived to my own inner capabilities,

science
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from a primary interest in another field. I did not choose
to study medicine as many students ~~did- but not all-~~ ^{did- but not all-} because
of a ^{profound} dedication to humanitarian ideals. I took up medicine
as a logical ^{sequel} ~~sequence~~ to an interest in chemistry/ ^{which had its inception in HS} at a time
when the boundaries between the sciences ^{were} ~~was~~ beginning to be
blurred by over-lapping areas of interest. The most exciting
advances in chemistry ~~was~~ ^{so} during my undergraduate days were, ~~it~~
it seemed ~~was~~ being made, not in pure organic chemistry, but in the chemistry
of biological processes. To enter this ~~field~~ ^{so} burgeoning field,
a knowledge of biology and physiology ~~was~~ ^{was} essential. But
I ~~did~~ was enough conditioned ^{by} ~~to~~ ^{by} an idealistic outlook to be
shocked ~~when~~ ^{during my} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ first year ~~medical school~~ ^{when} some of my classmates,
who ~~were~~ ^{is} discussing their reasons for wanting to become doctors
and some of them frankly admitted to choosing medicine as a
good way to get rich. Looking back on those boom days I can
understand now that with ^{so many} ~~most~~ people in many activities
primarily ^{preoccupied} ~~concerned~~ with money, it was not strange that students
of medicine should ~~likewise~~ be infected by the same concern.
I don't believe that ^{then} I maintained that I was taking up medicine
to do good in the world, but rather to pursue a scientific
career in which the quest for truth came before wealth.
^{From the beginning of memory}
However, ever since I can remember I ~~have~~ ^{have} another
interest ^{my} has paralleled the birth and development of ~~my scientific~~
~~interests~~ ^{however} a fascination with science. Having a content of
science also, this precedent concern was ~~an emotional~~ ^{an emotional} heavily
loaded with ~~an~~ emotional and artistic components, the latter
bearing fruit only years later, whereas the former was manifest

by ^{an} ~~the~~ attraction I ^{to} ~~found in~~ nature. As a child all living things were a source of delight to me, not expressible or even understood in this term, but tremendously attractive. I still remember some of the little things I found out doors, small tubers that I dug out of the ground in the woods behind my house, orange and black spiders sitting on ladders of silk in their webs, ^{thick} hickory buds in the spring, ^{thready} ~~spring~~ ^{Wichazel} ~~beauties~~, ^{down} ~~are~~ a few that I recall. I didn't think of them as beautiful wondrous I am sure, or as ~~appealing~~ phenomena of nature, although this would come closer to the effect they produced on me. As children ^{it all} ~~do I took them~~ for granted but ^{I believe} ~~think~~ it is not an exaggeration to say that I loved them, judging from the feeling of satisfaction they gave me when I rediscovered them each year. At this time I ~~begin to develop~~ a capacity for observation that has lasted all my life: a capacity concerned with the ~~out/doors~~ natural world out doors, but deficient in many other areas, as for example as regards people or cities or the interiors of houses. Thus my wife could change the decorations in our living room and I ~~might not notice the difference for weeks~~ when I finally noticed it she would say it had been like that for weeks. But ^{of} out/doors I noticed a great deal and so naturally I became preoccupied with many kinds of activities such as bird's nest hunting and collecting ~~and~~ butterflies and eventually the more sophisticated activities of photographing birds. Of course, in the beginning my attempts were pretty crude, especially the photography

In an ungarded moment, when I was asked to write an article ~~o~~ for the Alumni Bulletin on why I gave up medicine for photography I agreed. Later I realized that the article would ~~be~~ necessarily in part be a personal confession, the validity for which would rest on its ~~significance~~, and that there is ~~presumption~~ in attaching importance to ~~ones~~ divulging ~~ones~~ private life ~~the~~ presumption of its importance to ^{others} ~~anyone else~~. Furthermore, it would involve also ~~the~~ a ^{consideration} discussion of the life of ^{one who} ~~another~~, ^{as presented me properly;} which might also be regarded as ^{presumption} ostentatious. I have tried to avoid ^{this} ~~these~~ possible criticisms by making the account as uncomplicated ^{yet} ~~direct as possible~~, but it necessarily will have to include some discussion of human relations to make it meaningful.

a particularly ^{personal} relationship
the human relationship involved to make it meaningful.

- to arrive at ~~the~~ ^{that} point where one may
claim ^{objection} self-knowledge requires no not of us -
if it is ever ~~attainable~~ ^{valuable} possible -