

ON MEDICAL READING
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At times, it seems to us that modern medicine, entangled in its own complexity, has become infatuated with its ultra scientificity to the extent that it wallows in a morass of computerized minutiae, little of which is comprehensible to any but the over specialized drones who inhabit their own restricted cubbyholes in already over specialized fields. Much of this is reflected in our journals, which increasingly become the media for the reporting of the academicians, statisticians and full grant researchers who have moved into the medical schools and crowded clinicians into an uncomfortable corner.

Somewhere along the line our spirit has rebelled, and as we grow older in the practice of medicine, we find that our interest shifts more and more to the philosophical aspects of the profession. Although we make a determined effort to keep up with the scientific and clinical advances in our field, we do have a tendency to skip the article entitled "Surface Properties of Fetal Lamb Tracheal Fluid" and look for more rewarding reading.

Fortunately, there are still some havens where those weary of the study of protein biosynthesis and the electrophoresis-tracking of Sag 35-methionine and C14-amino acids may retreat to more peaceful reading. The editorial pages, the London communication and the letters section of the *New England Journal of Medicine* usually offer relief. In the A.M.A. journal, the articles under "Narration" or "Satire" are always entertaining. The *Archives of Internal Medicine* affords the wisdom of editor William B. Bean and E. P. Scarlett of Calgary ("Doctor Out of Zebulon"). Then there is the weekly comment, "Without Prejudice," beautifully written with typical English reserve and humor, of Pertinax in the *British Medical Journal*. Finally, in that excellent publication of the J. B. Lippincott Company, *Medical Science*, Editor Mark D. Altschule's monthly writings are invariably not only of top quality but presented in penetrating clarity and uncluttered style.