

SCIENCE

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RESEARCH IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES¹

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THE medical sciences may be defined as including those secondary sciences which contribute directly or indirectly to preventive and curative medicine and to public health. In common with other sciences the medical sciences have both theoretical and applied aspects, and research is the underlying principle of all knowledge and advance in both. Research and theory are interdependent, theory underlies practice, and practice at its best continues to utilize and to stimulate and accomplish research. Research after all simply reflects a state of mind; that state of mind that is not satisfied with the acceptance and application of an alleged group of facts but that insists on personal verification and extension thereof. This questioning and itching type of mind is in its highest reaches inborn, but its cultivation is not only possible in normally equipped individuals, but would seem essential for the proper fulfillment of a life on the level of a profession.

THE FIELD

The medical sciences afford fields of research which yield results comparable to those that accrue from the other sciences—happiness through intellectual gratification, opportunity for human service and a livelihood. It is true that the secondary sciences that are grouped as medical are less exact than the older fundamental sciences in the sense that they are younger, less fully formulated and more complex. The last feature alone suffices to assure an even wider range of intellectual gratification than do those sciences that enjoy greater technical accuracy. To many the prolongation of life and the mitigation and prevention of physical suffering is the highest form of human service. A livelihood is now

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