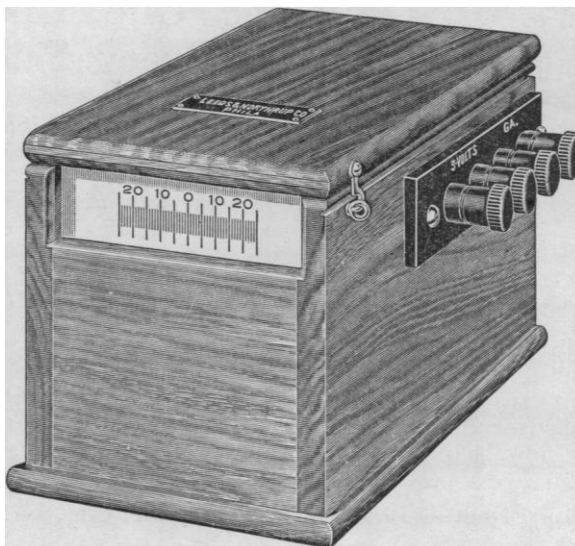


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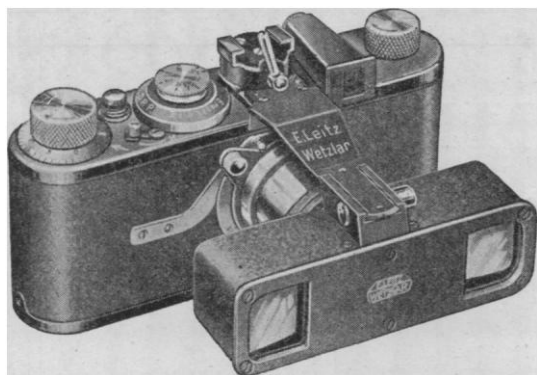
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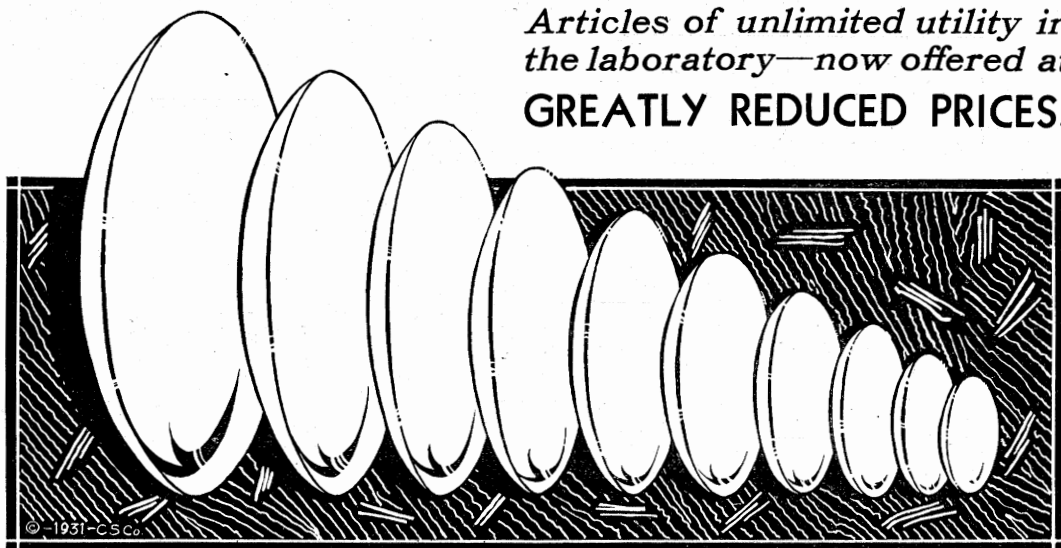
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## THE ART OF MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

By Professor DAVID RIESMAN,

PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

IF I indulge to-day in a panegyric of the art of medicine, it is not with any intention to disparage the science of medicine. Far be it from me to do so. I was trained in pathology and taught that fundamental branch for eight years before engaging exclusively in the teaching and practise of internal medicine. I may therefore lay some claim to an interest in the sciences. But I am here to-day through the courteous invitation of Dr. Locke to speak of medicine as an art by which is meant medicine as it applies to the care of the patient in contrast with medicine as a branch of the science of biology of which we proudly claim it to be a part. When I contrast the two branches of medicine—the art and the science—it must not be inferred that they are separable in the doctor's daily work. Dr. John Brown, the gentle author of "Rab and His Friends," long ago said that art uses one eye and science the other but wisdom uses both. It is for this wisdom arising through a union of science and art for which

we must strive as students and as practitioners of medicine.

The art and the science of medicine are like the two sides of a shield; neither can exist alone; neither by itself can achieve the grand goal for which medicine has been striving through the ages—to relieve suffering and to prevent disease.

In its composite character of art and science medicine does not differ from some other occupations, from that of the blacksmith or that of the mason. I can illustrate what I mean by a story. I once wanted a stone wall built from my house to the garage—a simple wall slightly curved. Any mason knowing the science of putting one stone upon another, of dropping a perpendicular, should have been able to do it. But upon inquiry I was advised to get an Italian mason because the Italians, so I was told, had a natural feeling for stone and would give me a more beautiful wall. And that is what happened—the wall is a work of art. It has something that the mason who only knows how to cut stone and mix mortar and pile one block upon another by the plumb

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered by invitation to the students of the Harvard Medical School, November 19, 1930.

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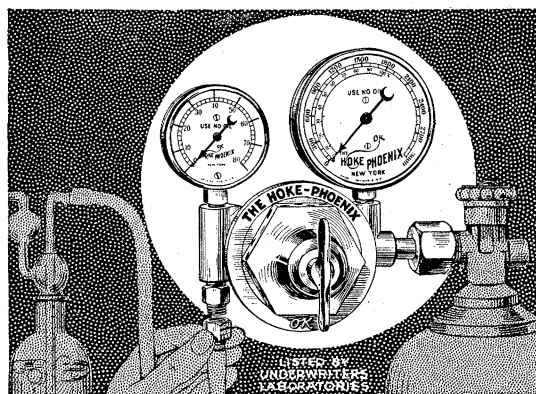
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