The Art of Observation in Medicine

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No Disclaimers
We only see what we are trained to see...

Objectives

- Content → Knowledge → Cognitive
- Observe → Reflect → Learn
  - Observation skills
  - Have Fun Observing!
"The art of medicine is in observation. The whole art of medicine is in observation... but to educate the eye to see, the ear to hear and the finger to feel takes time..."

"Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to feel, learn to smell, and know that by practice alone can you become expert."

- Sir William Osler, 1903.

"Medicine is of all the Arts the most noble; but, owing to the ignorance of those who practice it... it is at present behind all the arts..."

Hippocrates (460 BCE)

"Observe all; All healers do this... some do it better than others."

**Aphorisms**

- *Primum non nocere*
- If erysipelas of the womb seizes a woman with child, it will probably prove fatal (puerperal fever).
- When bubbles settle on the surface of urine, they indicate disease of the kidneys and that the complaint will be protracted (nephrosis).
- Persons who are naturally fat are apt to die earlier than those who are slender (metabolic syndrome).
**Aphorisms**

- Drinking strong wine cures hunger (glucose).
- Eunuchs do not take the gout nor become bald (male hormones).
- Sleep and watchfulness, both of them when immoderate, constitute disease (depression/mania).
- If you wish to stop the menses in a woman, apply as large a cupping instrument as possible to the breasts (huh?).

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**PARIS IN THE SPRING**

Now try to see the faces
finished files are frequently the result of years of scientific research
Are the horizontal lines parallel?
• Looking
• Seeing
• Watching
• Observing

“You can observe a lot just by watching”
Yogi Berra

Early Fall 1960  Late Fall 1961
“A few observations and much reasoning lead to error; many observations and a little reasoning, to truth”

Nobel Laureate, Surgeon
HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? really!

...close your eyes

Can you draw your own watch?

• Draw the CBS logo...
your turn…

- Telemetry/vitals
- Fluids and meds
- Food tray
- Foley catheter
- Flowers
- Possessions & Photos
- Nails and Hair (grooming)
- Facies (FLK phenomena)
- others…

Thank You
What color are your socks?

what is different in this room today?