

### The Art of Observation:

I think we are in a changing time - FOAMED, none of these boring journal clubs, looking up articles  
The knowledge translation time is being cut from 10 years to 1.  
Students are even challenging the dogma

But investigations mount - to the point you cant be diagnosed with one leg without getting a CT scan first.

I think despite all of these advances we are losing a great ritual that is the heart of the doctor patient relationship -  
Along with twitter and podcasts, I think the next important skill is the examination, it has the power to comfort, diagnose and bring about treatment.

Its also not about being able to exam. We are taught endless lists of signs to look for as a student. But no one teaches us how to look. I hope this talk will inspire you to look at little closer.

### Sherlock:

Conan Doyle - medical school in Edinburgh. Taught by Joseph Bell who developed the field of Forensic medicine. Jack the Ripper was at large and the police used him to help with the case. Conan Doyle was inspired by his teachings here is just one encounter:

Bell in the OPD -

A Woman comes in with a child and Doyle describes the following exchange:

The woman says "Good Morning"

Bell says "what kind of crossing did you have on the Ferry from Burnt Island?"

She says "It was good"

He says "What did you do with the other child?"

She says "I left him with my sister in leaf"

He said "And did you take the shortcut down inver-leaf road to get here to the infirmary?"

She says "I did"

And he says "Would you still be working at the linoleum factory?"

She says "I am"

Bell then explains to the students that when she said good morning he picked up her Fifth accent and the nearest Ferry Crossing from Fifth is Burnt Island. You notice that the coat she is carrying is too small for the child with her so she started out the journey with two children and but dropped one off along the way. You notice the clay on the soles of her feet, such red clay is not found within 100 miles of Edinburgh except in the Botanical gardens, therefore she took a short cut down inver-leaf road to arrive here. And finally she has a dermatitis on the fingers of her right hand. A dermatitis that is unique to the linoleum factory workers in Burnt Island.

### Condensation:

My own Sherlock story

Ward round, notes had done a 404 - no where to be found

Lady with pneumonia

We shall continue the IV abx until your fevers settle

The nurse says she did her obs and she doesn't have a fever

SMO - she did in the night

How do you know - we cant find the notes ....

## Death of Chatterton

Yale school of medicine takes students on 'picture rounds' at the British Art Collection - but instead of hunting out diseases, students are asked to describe what they see. This picture is a good example ?dead, asleep of hungover there are clues around the room.

The title gives the answer: The death of Chatterton by Henry Wallis (1856). After conducting the "observation workshops" there was noted improvement in the way students described details in their physical findings.

## Gambling Woman

So its your turn with a few pictures. List down what you see and what the diagnosis is. Easiest conclusion is: She uses a walking aid

Felt by neurologist Dr D Healy from the London Institute of neurology that the stooped shoulders, mask-like facies that she has Parkinson's

## Monster's Nude

These portraits of a five-year old girl presented to the court of Charles the second, in Madrid. She weighed approximately 70kg.

The likely diagnosis is Prader-Willi syndrome, though the book I found the images in suggested Cushing syndrome. The girl died at age 25. This would be more consistent with Prader-Willi

## Dick Ket's

The clubbing o the hands could easily be missed. Dick Ket was born with a heart defect and died at the age of 38. Emery suggests the clubbing, plethora and cyanosis (seen in some of his other images) hint at the tetralogy of Fallot.

## An Old Woman

Oncology Professor Michael Baum takes medical students on a 'ward round' at London's National Gallery. This picture demonstrates features of Paget's disease affecting the skull (osteitis deformans, enlarged her jaw, extended her upper lip and pushed up her nose.

## The Ogre's Daughters

The journal of the Royal Society of Medicine has a semi-regular segment called the "diagnosis of Art", most of the examples in this talk are from there.

The thought here is that the Ogre has exophthalmos ?thyroid but no other clues

## Madonna and Child

While Erb's palsy springs to mind, the authors have taken a closer look and suggest evidence for a clavicular fracture causing pseudoparesis

## Rembrandt Self-portrait

Rosacea and rhinophyma, xanthelasma, peri-orbital puffiness. The authors of the Lancet suggest hypothyroidism and hypercholesterolaemia

## Durer - Hands

The poor opposition of the fingers and the curvature of the right little finger have been suggested as being a combination of muscle wasting secondary to a peripheral neuropathy, and Dupuytren's contracture - both can be unified with a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus

## Dr Gachet

There is potential for disease to influence the artist. The portrait of Dr Gachet shows him holding a foxglove. It has been suggested that Van Gogh suffered from xanthopsia - a yellowing of his vision caused by digitalis toxicity, hence the yellow hues in his art.

## Conclusion

I hope this has been an interesting diversion, and when you approach your next patient - ask yourself "what do I see?"