The RYS Daily 7/22/07 Philosophical Thoughts XI

From The Mussar Movement, Volume I, part 2 pages 144 - 145.

Not only from books, but from all of life itself, did he deduce his moral lessons. Whatever he noticed furnished him with material for learning to fear G-d, whether in deepening his Musar knowledge or for spiritual awakening and self-reproof. He held the view that one should draw analogies from the material to the spiritual. "Man should train himself to fulfill the exhortation: `If you will seek it as silver...' 8 to examine one's bodily needs and to learn a lesson by analogy and transfer. How hard does man toil, is it not so, for his material needs, to provide his bodily needs to some extent, even if it is little? How much does he strive, when he is wracked with pain, G-d forbid, to seek some relief from his illness? Why do we, then, not do the same for our souls?" He made this argument his constant refrain and he exemplified it in practice.

Earlier issues of The RYS Daily are at http://www.stevens.edu/golem/llevine/salanter/