

fore becomes your duty to take an early opportunity of informing your patients it is very much in the interest of all concerned, and especially of the one who pays the bill, to send for you in the day time, instead of waiting until two o'clock next morning, as so many people do. The public seem to think sometimes that their family doctor is composed of two separate beings: one the human, who works hard all day, busy and anxious; the other superhuman, a species of night ghou, who sleeps all day and revels in being called out at night.

It will not only be your duty to take care of your own health in this and many other ways, but you are in a great measure constituted the guardians of the public health. Indeed your services in *preventing* diseases are of far greater value than in curing them after they have been contracted. Indeed I venture to say that for every life that medical science and skill has saved by cure they have saved a hundred by prevention. Do not be disappointed when you discover that for these important services you will receive no remuneration and hardly any thanks. Do not be discouraged even to find that the very people whom you are generously trying to benefit, by showing them how to avoid sickness and to do without your medical attendance, will sometimes consider you an officious busybody. Persevere in doing your duty, in spite of any rebuff, for you have the knowledge which they have not.

You are starting out in life, and in a few years we shall expect to hear some encouraging word of your whereabouts and welfare, for, though an ocean should roll between us, your lives will ever be of the greatest interest to us; we shall ever be proud of your success, but also ready to cheer you and sympathize with you in misfortune. Where you will start has probably been thoroughly thought over in your own minds; but I may offer you a few suggestions. If you start in the country you will necessarily be general practitioners, the backbone of the profession who have won in ages past the proud position of family friend and adviser,—nay, more, of father confessor. In that position you will acquire a large experience of men and things, and this, added to your liberal education, will make you one of the leading men of your district, whose opinion will be sought upon every conceivable subject, from the merits of the protective tariff and the demands of the Canada Pacific to the coming of cholera and the war in the Soudan;

and if in the course of time the electors of your district offer you a seat in Parliament, accept it as a duty, and do your duty there as honestly and fearlessly as in the humbler, but not less noble, sphere of a country doctor's life. But if you mean to settle in some large city, such as this, I would advise you to go to Europe for a year or two first, to work up some special subject, unless you are willing always to work among the poor. For here, alas! the rich no longer enjoy the luxury their forefathers once possessed and cherished, the family doctor; and the army of specialists now occupy his place. The mother who used to unburthen to him her aching heart, heavy with family cares, and the dear children who used to run to greet his smiling face, now welcome him no more. I was told the other day of a family where five specialists were all in attendance at once, and when the family doctor who had attended the parents ever since they two were made one, and who had brought them and the children through a hundred and one diseases, asked in a voice trembling with emotion, What is to become of me? the head of the house replied, "Oh we shall keep you on to tell us which specialist to call in next, as it sometimes puzzles me." Gentlemen, specialism has done much for science, more for the profession, most for the specialists. But it is just a question whether it is not being overdone. There is just the danger that the eye may be focused so intently on one object that it can see nothing else around, as illustrated in the following incident, which was related to me some time ago. A lady called upon a doctor, not knowing that he had a specialty, and requested him to see her little girl, who was ill with some kind of fever. He frankly told her that he didn't know anything about fevers, "but," said he, "give her this powder and she is sure to have fits; and, if she does, send for me, that's my specialty." It would probably be as well for the profession and better for the public, if every doctor were a good all-round man who could call in consultation in difficult cases a brother practitioner who had devoted some extra study to that particular disease. Gentlemen, I can no longer put off, what I fain would never say, the last sad words of parting. On behalf of the Faculty whom I represent, and on my own behalf, I wish you God-speed and all success in the noble work that lies before you. May you make this earth at least a little better for your having lived upon it. May your lives be such that you may be loved while you are here and missed when you are gone. Gentlemen, farewell.