

our agricultural productions in order to transform them into substances which will preserve the life of man. Draw from the study of electric forces the different improvements of which our profession has such need ; know by astronomy the conditions of the climates of the globe. Obtain from mechanics a new and better idea of natural forces. In short—to lighten, to simplify, to alleviate the work of millions of individuals, and thus prolong their existence.

In short—the physician of to-day has to be an astronomer, a chemist, a biologist, a naturalist, a minerologist, a mechanic and a botanist. It is necessary for him, in a comparatively short space of time, to grasp all branches of science so that he may become versed in each one ; and that he must continue to study with zeal and perseverance always and unceasingly, for science is marching onwards with rapid strides and to stop is to fall in the rear. And when he shall have realized the dreams of his ambition and when the evening of the day comes, he will feel that he is entitled to rest, with the conscience of having added to the common treasury from which humanity draws her resources ; and without which humanity would have otherwise remained in her primitive condition of poverty.

Even at this time, the doctor shall be monopolized by his social duties ; he will have to remember that if he has been considered as one of the benefactors of society, he is also a man, and should endeavor to practice often in spite of himself, and often without the slightest aptitude, the difficult art of pleasing all without offending any ;—too happy, if looking forward to a well merited repose, he be not rudely awakened in order to attend some sick man in agony.

This is the life of a medical man—a life of labor, self-sacrifice and devotion.

He is desirous of knowing, indifferent to all other pleasures. *Fortune* he esteems as nothing. *Poverty* he sets at naught. Eager for work, hungry for science, he has his eye continually turned towards the truth, like the magnet toward the “ polar star.” He seeks out this truth through fatigue and peril ; without truce and without repose, never once faltering. He keeps in himself the sacred fire of knowledge burning in spite of the discouragements from without, full of that ardent enthusiasm one feels when working for the benefit of the centuries to come, and that expectation of delight which he will experience when there lies open before his mind, vistas which no human eye had ever before seen. This is the life that my fellow students and myself have chosen,—not that we think ourselves stronger and more skillful than others ; but as the law of labor is incumbent upon all, we all must work. It is the first duty towards our country, our