

people are fond of characterising doctors as hard-hearted pitiless men, generally fond of hacking and cutting and giving pain. Even the Poet-Laureate, in a recent poem, has gone rather out of his way to describe an imaginary medical ghoul. While this is undoubtedly a libel on the great majority of the profession, there is, at the same time, a coloring of truth in the accusation. Familiarity with suffering is said to breed contempt, and thus blunt the sensibilities, and eventually harden a man. It all depends upon yourselves, however. If you enter practice thinking always of the loaves and fishes, if you treat your patients in a strictly professional manner, if you repress your natural sympathies and hold yourselves aloof, remaining impassive and cold as marble, then, most assuredly you will become hardened and callous; but if you always aim at doing good for the love of it, if, while relieving suffering you allow sympathy and kindness to temper every word and act, then, day by day, your hearts will expand with benevolence and love, and you will become purer, nobler, better. Strive to be as a ray of sunshine in every home; let the sick brighten at your entrance; let the little ones long for your visits; then, when your life-work is drawing to a close, when you are old and grey, men and women grown, whom you have watched and tended from infancy, will love and revere you with the tenderest affection and esteem.

As medical men, you have important duties to the community at large. Not only must you seek to cure disease in the individual when it exists, but you must strive to forestall its onset and prevent its spread. No branch of medical science is progressing more rapidly than Preventive Medicine. Hosts of keen observers are studying epidemics, investigating their origin and spread, seeking to discover the specific causes of infectious diseases, and the best methods of destroying or removing them. Vast progress has been made of late in Sanitary Science; impure air, impure water, impure food, impure milk, bad ventilation, bad drainage, have been repeatedly, in fact almost invariably, recognised as playing a large part in the origin and spread of disease; sanitary precautions have been devised, and, when faithfully carried out, have cut short epidemics and saved thousands of valuable lives. Those fearful scourges, typhus and small-pox, are now practically under control; and, judging from the recent interesting and important experiments of Pasteur, we shall,

some day, be able to protect our patients from the ravages of scarlet fever as successfully as we now do from small-pox. A vast field for original research is open to every one of you, gentlemen; those of you who settle in country districts will have even greater opportunities for the investigation of infectious disease than your city brethren; for you can there investigate the circumstances attending the origin and spread of disease far more accurately and satisfactorily than you could in crowded localities where so many fallacies must be guarded against. Let me urge upon you to neglect no opportunity of contributing your mite to the rapidly accumulating stores of knowledge in this most important subject.

There is yet another important matter to which I would like very briefly to direct your attention. As medical jurists your services will be continually invoked to aid the law in furthering the ends of justice; let your influence be impartially cast on the side of right and truth; never allow your judgment to be warped by personal or mercenary considerations. In many directions, the law is slowly but surely yielding to the demands of advancing scientific knowledge, and is being amended and remodeled in conformity with more correct ideas of true justice and humanity. In no case is this more strikingly manifested than in the treatment of the insane. Thank God, the day has gone by when unfortunate sufferers from mental disease were indiscriminately classed as dangerous lunatics and committed to gaols and asylums—why?—simply to get rid of them. As the result largely of the constant agitation kept up by the members of the medical profession, it is at last dawning upon the public mind that insanity is not a special dispensation of Providence, inscrutable and irremediable, but is in reality the result of morbid processes chiefly affecting the brain, just as bronchitis is the result of morbid processes affecting the respiratory tubes. Insanity, therefore, is a disease, and, like other diseases, is amenable to suitable treatment; moreover, as in other diseases, some cases can be cured, some can be only improved, while others are beyond the reach of our present knowledge and skill. Would that the name "Lunatic Asylum," with all its painful associations of ignorance, incompetence, cruelty and neglect, could be forever swept away and forgotten! I sincerely trust that the day may not be far distant when, to the triumph of education, civilization and common humanity, special hos-