

successful medical men either here or on the other side of the Atlantic proves that fact. Although your four years study at college and in the hospital wards may be considered enough to qualify you for the important duties of your profession, still, as soon as you are thrown on your own resources, and are launched out in the struggle for existence in the practice of that profession, you will find continually cropping up questions that are quite new to you and which will require deep thought and study. Whether you like it or not you will be compelled, to some extent, to continue to be a student. If you have the proper scientific spirit you cannot be very long in practice without discovering from some of the cases under your care, that a great deal yet remains to be done in all the departments of medicine. Without this scientific spirit the practice of medicine is devoid of its ennobling qualities, as it is that alone which gives dignity to our calling.

Although the relief of suffering may at first sight appear to be your principal object in life, you must not lose sight of the fact that the science of medicine is one of prevention rather than cure. The mere search after remedies, although a praiseworthy and necessary work, is far inferior in its aims to the investigation of the causes of disease and the discovery of means for its extinction or avoidance. This latter is really the element in medicine that entitles it to the claim of a science. Here is an extensive field in which trained intellect is of inestimable value, and one in which you can profitably employ much of the spare time that you are certain to have in the early part of your professional career. It is a work in which any one of you, considering the training you have had, can engage and tend greatly to ameliorate the condition of our race; that is, provided you only possess the qualities of patience and industry, and are accurate in your observations. Indeed there is as much to be done in the way of new discovery in this direction as in any other field of inquiry which can be selected.

It is quite true some of your patients may occasionally give you the name of being fond of experimenting. That must not deter you from your proper course. You may if you like tell