

is now considered so essential, that many universities do not confer a medical degree unless the candidate has previously graduated in Arts. Permit me to urge upon you the necessity of improving your general education, if your early training has been defective; for among the educated public, a physician who is learned and cultured has a better chance of achieving professional success than one who is illiterate, and who, by his ignorance of subjects not strictly pertaining to medicine, exposes himself to ridicule. In alluding to a sound general education as an element of success in the medical profession, I have no intention to disparage your literary and scientific attainments. I have taken the liberty to address you on the subject, because I would have you speak a word of counsel to intending medical students, should you have the opportunity to do so. Plead for the cultivation on their part of scientific habits of thought, and advise them to undergo a thorough, training in Arts prior to matriculation in a school of medicine. A large percentage of medical students are, in consequence of their imperfect education, unfit to cope with the exigencies of medical training; and the difficulty they experience in grasping the significance of scientific truths, and in clearly expressing their thoughts, is the secret of their repeated failures to pass professional examinations.

The medical man should aim at being scientific in his methods of practice and in his habits of thought. He should be able to follow, be it in a humble way, the leaders of medical science in their application of scientific methods to the service of suffering humanity. He should be in a position to appreciate their labors if not actually ambitious to emulate them. He should be capable of making his diagnosis with judgment, basing his ultimate conclusions on well established symptoms of disease. The degree that you possess is a guarantee that you have the qualifications for which I plead; and I am confident that you are qualified by your training to undertake your life's work, and to acquit yourselves therein with distinction. Your teachers will nevertheless expect you to continue the work of medical education begun at Bishop's College. We would have you study the pages of the best medical and surgical works. We would have you read the best medical journals, in order that you may keep abreast of the progress of medical science. But beware of making mere book-worms of yourselves. The physician's duty is to improve his art. He may attain his object by making exact clinical observations, by