

were, arrived at the portal of a vast enclosure. You have only reached the starting point of the race you are to run : you are furnished with arms, you have a complete panoply ; yet you have not yet proved them, and will often find them cumbrous and difficult of management, till time and repetition shall have given you the facility of manipulation which you see in the hands of your seniors.

In fact, however prepared to commence the duties of your profession you lack EXPERIENCE, and this is a branch of knowledge which we cannot teach you, but which must be acquired by an intelligent and persevering use of those tools with which we have furnished you.

I well recollect, many years ago, when I first entered on the study of medicine, how wonderful it appeared to me that my preceptor could so rapidly decide upon the remedies required by his patients ; a few hints and a glance or two seemed to enable him to seize the whole subject. It looked like intuition. The whole subject seemed to flash upon his mind without the labored operations usually required to reason out a complicated question, and to come to a conclusion. But, gentlemen, experience has long ago taught me how this is done, as it will undoubtedly in due time teach you.

It is of much importance in pursuing your profession, that you should estimate it properly. Medicine is not an exact science ; the varied and often conflicting opinions of its professors give abundant proof of that. It has even been called disparagingly a " conjectural science," which no doubt it sometimes is, and indeed must be, till knowledge becomes perfect. There are, however, few branches of knowledge to which we can apply the appellation of " exact." It is in mathematics and the portions of other sciences dependent on them, that we can look for anything deserving of the name. In these we may be certain in our deductions, but in none other. What branch of knowledge is not shifting and changing ? If it be a complaint that medicine, which has been studied for between two and three thousand years, is still unsettled and imperfect ; may we not say the same of other branches ? Can we not turn with confidence to the other Faculties of our College and ask, Are you better off than we ? Are your foundations more firm, or your principles more stable ? Look at education in general, a pursuit which must have occupied the minds of men ever since men were united in social relations, and yet do we find it at the present day pursued on a well-established basis. On the contrary, have not the " new lights" discovered the incapacity not only of old established institutions, but even of long-established rules.

Again, what is of more importance to the well-being of man than a proper knowledge of the laws that should govern international relations ; still, as a science, political economy is but a new discovery, and yet under its dic-