

physiological chemistry. Bacteriology, though as yet but a new science, has already greatly enriched our knowledge of disease and of morbid processes, and has become indispensable to both the physician and the surgeon. What can be more fascinating than the thought that by a knowledge of bacteria and their products we are enabled to differentiate diseases ; to demonstrate their primary morbid elements, and to study their action in the laboratory ? It is but a step further to the discovery of methods for the destruction of these morbid agents within the body and thus striking at the root of many diseases. This step has indeed already been taken, although not successfully by Koch, in the discovery of tuberculin. Who can doubt that these discoveries are but the earnest of much greater and more important ones ! Thanks to such discoveries and the practical application of the knowledge thus obtained by thoughtful and philosophical physicians and surgeons, the whole field of medicine and surgery has been enlarged and expanded in every direction. Disease processes are better understood, and many conditions formerly considered beyond the reach of aid are now remedied with ease and certainty by the surgeon or the physician. Chemistry, too, has contributed much in late years, not only to our knowledge of disease, but also to pharmacy and therapeutics. New drugs and new combinations have taken the place of older and cruder ones. In short, exact knowledge and rational methods are rapidly replacing theories and empiricism. But while dwelling upon the great opportunities for purely scientific work and the rewards which it promises, I do not forget that most of you will depend upon the practice of your profession for your livelihood. I would ask you, however, to remember that the cultivation of the scientific habit of mind is not only compatible with, but is absolutely essential to the successful practitioner of medicine. The day has happily disappeared when eccentricity, boorishness, or a " good bedside manner " were the passports to fame and fortune in the practice of medicine. In the general enlightenment of this nineteenth century the public looks for knowledge and skill in the medical as well as in the other professions, and when to these are added tact, courtesy, kindness and patience in the person of the cultured and broad-minded