

they have no medico-legal case on hand. Some of them are quite honest in their convictions, and all are very theological and emotional in their appeals, and to this they owe what success they have in achieving notoriety; and yet, while professing the most humane sentiments, they are unscrupulous even to cruelty in carrying out their fantastic ideas. They will not greet your coming on the stage of action with any particular enthusiasm, but you must not be discouraged on that account.

You will find, also, that the manufacturing pharmacist is abroad in the land, and that he, on the other hand, will be very glad to make your acquaintance. He will not only supply you with toothsome preparations, neatly put up in artistic packages, but he will tell you what they are good for, in what doses to use them, and, most important of all, which of them are in accordance with the code of ethics. He will ornament your office with innumerable samples, and pleasantly interrupt and variegate the perusal of your medical journals by means of blue, green, and yellow advertising sheets, unexpectedly and neatly inserted. Under his friendly guidance the path of medicine becomes a flowery one, for all that you have to do is to decide upon the name of the disease of your patient, and then look over the advertisements and samples to see what will cure it.

Moreover, there are some canvassers, and publishers, and editors, who are prepared to be your best friends if you will only permit it. They want you in the first place to subscribe, and then to write; to produce from the stores of your knowledge, items, and essays, and papers, to help them to raise the standard of American medical literature, until it shall be high above that of the effete despotisms of Europe. Nor are these the only persons that await your coming. You are wanted in Medical Societies, the advocates of higher medical education rely on your support, Boards of Health and Registrars are looking to you to make their statistics perfect and complete, and Army and Navy Medical Examining Boards are preparing fresh lists of questions for your benefit. But perhaps you flatter yourselves that you have now passed your final examination. Never was a greater mistake. Your

most severe and continued ordeal is just about to begin. And it may be that the result will give rise in some of your minds to serious doubts as to the value of the Darwinian theory about the survival of the fittest. But at all events I can assure you that you need have no fear as to there not being room for you, or that the world has not work enough for you to do. You know the old saying, "There is always plenty of room on top." But even in the lower stories there is plenty of standing room. There are to-day between one and two millions of sick people in the United States, and the deaths for this year will certainly be a million. You see, therefore, that the sanitarians, whom some of you may, unwisely, look upon as enemies, since they are trying to do away with some of the causes which necessitate your services, have, at all events, not yet seriously injured the business of the profession. And for your further encouragement I will predict that it will be a long time before they succeed in doing this, for whatever variations the changing seasons bring to our other harvests, the fool crop continues with almost unvarying regularity.

While I am on this subject, however, let me advise you from the business point of view, as well as on account of your interests as citizens and humanitarians, to look into this matter of preventive medicine a little more closely than you have yet probably had time to do. It is going to be a very important matter in your day and generation, and you will be examined and cross-questioned on it to an extent which you little suspect. Some of you will no doubt be called to act as members of Boards of Health, and all of you are sure to be appealed to on questions of ventilation, house drainage, school hygiene, pure water, adulterated food and drugs, and the means of shunning or putting away the pestilences, which will consume, not only the children of other people, but your own also, if you cannot answer the sphinx's riddle.

You will find that public health legislation is a matter to which you cannot remain indifferent, for you will become part of the machinery whether you wish to or not, and if you are wise you will study the subject so that