

Charles Dickens has put it in the words of the doctor's wife where she says, "We are not rich in the bank, but we have always prospered and we have quite enough. I never walk with my husband but I hear the people bless him. I never go into a house of any degree but I hear his praises or see them in grateful eyes. I never lie down at night but I know that in the course of that day he has alleviated pain and soothed some fellow-creature in the time of need. I know that from the beds of those who were past recovery thanks have often gone up in the last hour for his patient ministrations. Is not this to be rich?"

The young doctor must have as his main master faculty, sense, common sense, and he must have a real turn for the profession. A great divine has said: "The grace of God can do much, but it cannot give a man common sense." The danger of the present day is that the mind gets too much of too many things. A young medical student may have, as one author puts it, zeal, knowledge, ingenuity, attention, a good eye, a steady hand, he may be an accomplished anatomist, histologist, analyst, and yet with all the lectures and all the books and other helps of his teachers he may be beaten in treating a whitlow or a colic by the nurse in the wards, or the Old Country doctor, who was present at his birth. The prime qualifications for a doctor have been given by Dr. Brown in the words, *Capax*, *Perspicax*, *Sagax*, *Efficax*. *Capax*, room, for the reception and proper arrangement of knowledge; *Perspicax*, a keen and accurate perception; *Sagax*, the power of judging, ability to choose and reject; *Efficax*, the will to do, and a knowledge of the way to do it, the power to use the other three qualities.

The doctor must have a discerning spirit. There is a nick of time, or in other words, a presence of mind, and this he must have on, as Dr. Chalmers has said, "Power and promptitude." "Has he wecht, he has promptitude, has he power? He has power, has he promptitude, and, moreover, has he a discerning spirit?" The doctor must be as a general in the field or the pilot in the storm. I often think he belongs to no one in particular, but is a public property. His time is never his own. His children see little of him, and he leads a sort of Bohemian life, restless, active, thoughtful, worried, much beloved and occasionally cordially hated. He should be Bohemian in his tastes if he wishes for refinement to soften his manners and make him less of a wild beast. Art and literature, however, help to make noble only what is already noble, but such hobbies elevate and improve the mind and lift it above the rut of everyday life. A good education is a first essential. It is not necessary that everybody should know everything, but it is more to the purpose that every man, when his turn comes, should be able to do some one thing.