

aged at this, for it is quite natural that people should prefer those who have already attended them or their friends, and of whose reliability they have thus had some opportunity of forming an opinion rather than try some one of whom they know nothing. This however, is not an unmixed evil, for, as I have already said, you have great need of a few years of freedom from the care and anxiety of a busy doctor's life, in which to cultivate your minds. Besides this, while a student you have had no time and will have none when a busy practitioner, to enjoy social pleasures, yet in the few years between these two stages of your life you will have the leisure for, and cannot better employ a portion of it than in social intercourse. Although the medical student is proverbially gallant, yet during his few years of existence he has been thrown more in the society of his jolly, rollicking companions than in that of gentle ladies; and there is no way that I can suggest more likely to refine the manners than to frequent the society of refined women. This is all the more important as, throughout the whole of your professional career, the ladies will be your best friends; in fact, they have it in their hands to make or mar you, and woe betide you if you incur their displeasure. And so I would recommend you to devote your evenings for the next few years to extending the circle of your lady friends.

Do not be discouraged by those who tell you that the profession is overcrowded; there is now, and always will be, room in the profession for well-educated, hard-working, self-denying men; indeed it is just where it seems most crowded that such a man has the best chance of getting on. But there is little or no room for the half-educated, or the indolent, or the self-indulgent; for them the profession is overcrowded, especially in the cities, and their only chance of success is to start in some country place where they will have no competition to contend with.

While holding out every encouragement to those who are beginning practice, there are a few things of which I should forewarn you, and first, if you are going to begin in a large city, you must not expect a large practice all at once. It takes time for the public to become aware of the fact that you are ready and willing to attend them, and after that it takes longer still for your turn to come around to get a chance of showing your ability. The rich have not the inclination, and the poor have not the means, to find you out, and you can-

not advertise. Although this may seem hard at first, yet in the end it turns out for the best; for some of the leading medical men of Montreal to-day owe their present success to the fact that they had so few patients for the first few years that they had plenty of time to study up each case when they got one, and what they learned then they never forgot. Moreover, could we all jump into a lucrative practice at the close of our college career, the poor would have no one to attend them; and yet they are the ones who most require attention, for their poverty is often the cause of their disease. The older practitioners have not the time to attend them, and they must therefore depend upon you during the first years of your practice. To attend the poor should be considered by you as a privilege you can thus bestow thousands of dollars worth of your time when you have no money to give in charity; and besides that you will thus be enabled to make friends of those who, poor as they may be, will be better friends to you, professionally, than the rich.

You have just come from the College and Hospital where your powers of observation and other intellectual machinery have received a high polish, and what you have most to dread is intellectual rust. I therefore commend you to work; not so hard as you have been doing, but still work hard. When you cannot get much remuneration work for a little—work for nothing—work for the work's sake. I would recommend you strongly to pursue some original investigations in the vast field of scientific research—especially that part of Botany for instance which comprises the study of the least and lowest forms of life. To follow out the details of Pasteur's great discovery, and make a grand reality of what we are still compelled to call the *Germ Theory*. Reason out the existence of, search for, *find* the germs of pneumonia, puerperal, typhoid and every other fever which now we can but suspect,—*that* would be a result for which no honor could be a reward too great, for which, to purchase, a thousand lives would be too cheap a price. Where Pasteur the country lad has done so much, why should not you do, or at least attempt, some more. Many things which we now see as through a glass darkly, we shall then see face to face.

The profession you have embraced is a hard one, but you are not called upon in conscience to needlessly sacrifice your health. Indeed every year you live your experience makes your life more valuable to the public welfare. It there-