

Medical Faculty Convocation, one cannot help feeling a certain regret for the choice which his fellow students have made in entrusting to him the onerous task of voicing their sentiments to such a learned gathering.

Nevertheless, while thoroughly appreciating the responsibility which rests upon me, I feel an honest pride, wholly incapable as I am, in having been entrusted with the duty of rendering the traditional "Valedictory," and to thank you on their behalf for leaving your occupations, and perhaps your pleasures, in order that you might come to this assembly and inspire, by your presence, we, young men, who are about to run our race in the occupation which we have chosen as our life's work. To inspire us who have such a great need of the sympathy of those around us, and of knowing that behind them, other hearts are beating in unison with our own. For although our profession may be different from yours, yet we are destined to live the same life, to rejoice in the same joys and to be saddened by the same sorrows. At the present time you are well aware that the medical profession is not what it formerly was, when the medical man separated himself from the rest of mankind and wrapped himself in a certain cloak of mystery almost thereby acquiring the name of sorcerer. At that time when certain privileged beings only had the means of studying the physiology of the human body, the ignorant masses almost placed their healers on a level with God, and many quacks knew how to make capital of this instinctive fear of humanity, which is often unable to distinguish between he who knows and he who knows not. Happily in our day this has been entirely changed,—thanks to the rapid march of science—thanks to the benefit of an instruction which is embracing the world, men are now given to reason to find out the "why and the wherefore" of that which formerly appeared incomprehensible. And after incessant toil, they have succeeded in drawing from nature a reply to all their questions.

And naturally in this continual evolution the medical man has rather been the cause of its birth, by going as he has deep into the study of men and nature and not being content as he formerly was—say two centuries ago with cutting or bleeding—a butcher, however unskilled, might in a short time arrive at this point of medical science; but the doctor of to-day has a higher aim, nobler aspirations—that of enriching the poor, without impoverishing the rich. That of forcing nature to yield up to him her secrets, which he will make use of to cure his fellow man. And in order to reach this admirable result, the physician must study the different characteristics of the materials of which the universe is made. Enrich the pharmacopœas by the manipulation of fruits of