

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE  
ON  
HYGIENE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

BY

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In beginning the study of a new subject, it is always well to obtain as clear a view as possible of the field which is to be explored and cultivated; its scope, its limitations, its possibilities and the nature of the work which is to be performed in it; and the more clearly these are understood at the beginning, the more intelligently and successfully will the work be carried on.

In entering, therefore, upon our reorganized course of Hygiene, I have thought it well to devote a short lecture to a survey of the ground to be covered, and an outline of the manner in which we propose to utilize it.

It is impossible in a single word or sentence to define what Hygiene is, or what are its scope and its limitations. The word itself means *health*, or things pertaining to health, being derived from the name of the Greek Goddess of Health, Hygeia, and in its widest sense, therefore the study of Hygiene means the study of all things pertaining to health, whether beneficial or detrimental. This, of course, includes the study of Disease, which is strictly a department of Hygiene on account of the effect which disease has upon health. But the *Science of Medicine* has long since claimed as its own particular province, the study of Disease, and Hygiene has been glad largely to concede the claim, having still an ample territory over which there can be no dispute. But there is also a large area which is common to both, and over which neither can claim exclusive jurisdiction.