

or retrograde. No two minds are alike; hence it is the bounden duty of each person to contribute toward the stock of general knowledge. By so doing we live not to ourselves but for the good of all. Be diligent and true to your mission, and you may rest assured your work will endure and your example shine clear, long after the ephemeral glitter of the superficialist has gone out in the darkness of oblivion. There are many fields of medical enquiry awaiting special investigation. Very likely each of you have already felt strong inclinations for some branch of the profession. Be not hasty to follow such predilections but rather seek to lay the foundations of your future success, broad and deep, on a thorough knowledge of all the branches of medicine without which, rest assured, nothing great in any special department will ever be realized. I have no desire to overwhelm you with advice, yet there are two subjects I cannot refrain from saying a word upon, viz.: liquor and opium. It is true that it is fashionable now-a-days to denounce the use of alcohol—well I am right glad it is so—I shall rejoice when the evils of intoxication are known no more, and believe it is our duty to encourage legal measures for the restraint of a source of evil, the results of which are so well known to medical men. The appetite for alcohol is so easily formed and rekindled in those who have once been its victims that it behoves you to be very cautious in prescribing an agent so powerful for harm. Many a one has manfully resisted this besetting sin till, by the physician's advice, the poison roused the uncontrollable passion to the present ruin of himself and family. I speak feelingly upon this subject, because I was upon one occasion the cause of such a deplorable result. With regard to opium, there is need for much judgment. I do not speak of its priceless value, rightly administered, but of the growing habit among our people of what is justly called "opium eating." There may be solitary instances where this deplorable habit has been acquired without reference to the doctor's advice; but, in the vast majority of cases, however, there can be no doubt that it has resulted from the too long continuance of the drug as prescribed by the medical attendant. You cannot be too cautious in administering this drug, especially to ladies who, from their peculiar and delicate nervous temperament, form the habit more readily than do

men. The continuous resort to opiates for the relief of pain should never be permitted except to those dying from some malignant and incurable affection. Without dwelling upon these subjects, I would urge their importance upon you, gentlemen, as graduates of this University. The Faculty also desire to express our grateful appreciation of your gentlemanly conduct during all your college course. By your earnestness, attention and zeal to acquire the principles of your profession, you have made the lecture hour a time of pleasant intercourse; not for the dry parading of facts, but for the happy display of deeply interesting matter in something of its own lovely attractiveness. We have sought less to instruct than to educate you—less to cram than to help you to discern the workings of the laws of nature. That our course in this respect is a wise one we doubt not, and will leave it for your lives to testify, as well as those of your fellow-graduates from this University.

Gentlemen, remember the responsibilities you this day assume. Remember the tie of fealty and love by which you are bound to your *Alma Mater*. Let your position and success in life be what it may, never forget to seek her good. This connection, this responsibility can never cease so long as in *very truth* she is your *Alma Mater*. I say not but that you would be free from this your oath if she ceases to be a loving mother to you. When she becomes a step-mother, and only then, can you rightly seek for a separate existence, or associations elsewhere. Gentlemen, you have entered upon a path a loftier and more God-like than which is not, in my judgment, open to mortal tread. A keen sense of the great responsibility should ever rest upon you. There is much of sorrow, much of joy; much of life, much of death dependent on the wisdom and grace with which you pursue your course. Not only is it your province to wisely wield the surgeon's knife, or successfully deal out God's remedies for the diseased body, but you will be the trusted councillor of many a troubled heart, and the faithful confidant of many a secret that never could be breathed in any other ears. You need wisdom of the heart, as well as wisdom of the head, to rightly fulfil your mission to a suffering, sinning and dying world. May you be true to yourselves, your profession and your God. Scatter