

which you pursue, the good which you effect, and the position which you maintain. Society expects every one of its members to do his duty—and even when performed, awards often scant praise therefor. And not to be purely temporary and transient, you will soon learn in your career that your success must be unequivocal and frequent; that you will have by your life to contradict or outlive much censoriousness and disparaging criticism, before you attain a fair position among your confrères, and perhaps that may only be reached with declining years and decaying mental energy. But inasmuch as there is seldom genius without that real strength of mind and capacity of endurance which can afford to bide its time, and in the end carry the day—the fruits for which you may have toiled may be reaped, and reputation, perhaps fame, may be achieved at a relatively early age. Work therefore, be patient, be hopeful, trust in your abilities, natural and acquired, feel “that all as in some piece of art is toil, co-operant to an end;” and if success should reward your efforts, regard it not as being evidence of personal merit,—nor be exalted thereby—or at the most be tranquil and humble in your exultation; it will not last long: soon you will have to give place to others, and quickly drop aside and be no more seen.

From the public in general your studies receive little attention and interest, inasmuch as they offer no attractions, other than those in some obscure way, connected with ancient errors and modern charlatanism. But the medical man must be cold indeed who rises from a review of the subjects which form the basis of your study, without enthusiasm bordering on almost extravagance. Of created things is there one equal to man, or even like unto him in conception or execution of design or effect of purpose? Does not his organisation surpass that of all others, and a knowledge of it in its multiplied relations far transcend all other phenomena? Who or what ranks higher in the scale of creation? In whom and in what are embraced and compressed as it were such marvellous adaptations, such moral interests, such psychological mysteries? wherein else do we so clearly distinguish “direction which we cannot see,” even as by refraction we see the sun before it has risen above the horizon? Are the demonstrations of anatomy then, as has been said, “mute and frigid,” because made on the inanimate body—the tenement of clay? mute! are not all its parts vocal to you, have they not significance—frigid! do they not always excite and kindle even in the dullest, the disposition to prosecute them even by running counter to law, and incurring the odium which society unjustly expresses. And what are these demonstrations and revelations? The frame-work of the bones—to which and round which clings the mechanism of the muscles and tendons, the distribution and arrangement of the nerves from foot