

agony, delirium or convulsions may compress the energies of a life in a few, brief, racking, fatal hours, and still he must be there, battling manfully, and it may be impotently, with busy death.

But, it may be asked, what is it that induces you voluntarily to undergo such difficulties and trials as I have attempted to describe? I reply. Your chief incentive must be an ardent love for your profession. If you have not this love you had better turn back at once, for assuredly without it you will never be a credit to yourselves nor to the profession whose name you bear. But the profession of medicine is one well qualified to enlist our warmest feelings. It consists of the constant and eager pursuit of truth, and the application of that truth to the relief of suffering and the promotion of human happiness. It embraces the most comprehensive study of nature and endeavours to utilize knowledge in every department of science.

It is this ardent love for his profession which explains much in the conduct of the practitioner of medicine that is incomprehensible to the public or that is misconstrued. Herein lies the secret of that singular characteristic of our profession—the eagerness to work for nothing. This is why we see young men contest with a vigour and often at a pecuniary cost equal to those expended for a seat in parliament, the privilege of working gratuitously in our hospitals and dispensaries. Governors and the general public are mostly unable to recognize any but the sordid motive of worldly advantage. They see the earnest applications, the voluminous circulars and testimonials, the active canvass from door to door, and they not unnaturally conclude that what is solicited at so great a cost of time, trouble, and even of personal dignity, must possess a commensurate pecuniary value. The simple fact is, that medicine and everything connected with it is progressive. It is progressive as an abstract branch of knowledge, and it is progressive as regards every individual who follows it as a profession. The medical man is always and above all a student. Deprive him of the means of observing disease and you render him miserable. Not because he is enamoured of disease, still less because the sight of human agony has any attraction; not because the employment is profitable in a pecuniary sense, but because he feels that without the opportunity of observation the knowledge he possesses will decay, the faculties which are strengthened by exercise will grow torpid, and the skill that is acquired by practice will be lost.

Actuated as you are, gentlemen, by love for your profession, you must pursue it with earnestness of purpose. What was it that inspired the courage and foreshadowed the successes of an Alexander, a