

the general character of their calling, and the more they had entered as brothers into the great fellowship of medicine. (Applause.) Now these two callings—the calling of the pharmacist and the calling of the physician had been drawn so close together that neither in the future, it would be found, could go very far without the other. He should like to say to them, and to say it with all his heart, how warm was his attachment to pharmacy, how proud he was to remember that his honored father was a pharmacist, and how proud he was to recall his sound training and guidance in any of the success which he had attained. He based the armth of his attachment to pharmacy not upon the fact that his father took part in the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society, and that he was one of the original founders in 1841, but upon the fact that the more he looked back upon his own progress and his own work during the thirty years he has been in Birmingham—part of it as a student, and all the rest as a practitioner—the more conscious was he that it was his duty to advance the practice of medicine in the alleviation and cure of disease. But he owed much of his attachment to pharmacy to the fact that during the time to which he had referred he had experienced over and over again the greatest kindness and consideration from members of that profession in this town and neighborhood. He was going to ask them a plain question, and he was going to ask them to allow him to answer it, for that evening at all events. He asked,

WHAT WAS THE HIGHEST DUTY OF THE PHARMACIST?

He answered. To share in making perfect the art of medicine. He must point out to them that the art of medicine aimed at the prevention and the cure of all disease—not some diseases, not this disease, not that disease, but aimed at the prevention and cure of all disease. And he would ask them to accept, following upon this statement, that the potentiality of the art of medicine was bounded only by the physiological possibilities of human life. They would see what he meant by that—that in that ideal condition of human life that life in each individual should be as exalted and as perfect and, as long as possible, free from every disease, and every pain, and every pang, and every condition of suffering whatever which curtailed that ideal. It was to the prevention of everything which stood in the way of perfection; it was to that that medicine, supported and protected by pharmacy, must direct its aims. They might say that was a high aim, and not likely to be reached; but he was sanguine enough to think that some day it would be reached, and that we were getting nearer to it every day. Towards this consummation, so devoutly to be wished, the art of medicine, the art of therapeutics, was sure to grow. The lines of its development were plain, and they knew them well. Only by slow experience and only by the labor of many hands—the

more the better—could our progress be attained. Little by little would our knowledge surely grow; but only by the experience of reliable observations, infinitely multiplied and laboriously compared. Let him ask them for a moment to look at another aspect of the scope of therapeutics. He need not remind them that the popular view of therapeutics was not the complete view; that it was much more than the swallowing of medicine at stated intervals during the twenty-four hours; that this art of therapeutics was not merely the administration of drugs. Just think for a moment what it was besides that. It includes other agencies which could favorably influence disease. It included dietetics—what a man ought to eat and drink, and what he ought not to eat and drink. It included balneology, a very ancient system of therapeutics, which was better known, he was inclined to think, in one of the ancient civilizations than it was understood now. The art of therapeutics included also climatology, in which we were still much at sea. It also comprised a knowledge, and correct knowledge, of the climatic conditions of different places, the effect of those climatic conditions upon disease, both as to its prevention and cure, and the remedial art included the physiological resources of mechanics, a mine of boundless wealth which, in means for the evacuation of morbid collections, and for securing rest, immobility, and support, had achieved such excellent results; it included electricity and forms of gymnastics; it included the regulation of occupations, pursuits, and amusement, and it included many details of practical education in their physical and psychical bearings upon growth and stability. He asked them as pharmacists to accept such great view as that which he had endeavored to put before them as to the art of therapeutics, and, if they accepted that, it was their duty to take part and share with us who work for the same end. It is their duty to take part and share in making perfect the art of medicine. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Let him be a little more precise as to the lines upon which the art of medicine was making advance. He ventured to say that the art of medicine was

MAKING ADVANCE UPON THREE GREAT ROADS,

three great lines—not quite parallel lines, but still three great lines of advance, like a great army divided into three divisions, but divided so that they might at a certain time reach a certain place. By improvements in our knowledge of the nature, cause, process, and prevention of disease—that in one great line, and there are many men working in that line. Another line was the improvement in the art of diagnosis. They knew that many improvements had been made in the art of diagnosis in our time. How, by instruments, mechanical instruments, of precision; how by training our own hands, eyes, and ears, and our faculties for observing accurately, intelligently, and pre-

cisely; how, by using the instruments which man had made and the instruments which God only could make—the art of medicine was making progress in improvements in the diagnosis, in the detection of disease, in its early recognition, and in the discrimination of the different forms of disease one from the other. There was another great road, and that was by improvements in remedies, by improvements in our knowledge of the remedies, by the discovery of new remedies and the improvements in the selection and preparation and mode of application of those remedial agencies. In this third road more especially pharmacists had shared, greatly to their credit and public advantage in the past, and they were likely to share still more in the future. (Hear, hear.) Now he wished to press this subject a little more closely, and to ask them to unite heartily with the medical profession, especially in improving that part of the art of medicine which concerned the administration of drugs. There was, however, a part which the public could play in this. He had ventured to point out the lines of their duty. He had ventured to point out the lines in which the duty of the medical profession lay, and he did not think the medical profession had ever failed in doing the best by many honest laborers to prevent disease and increase its cure. But there was a part of this great work of carrying forward the alleviation and cure of disease in which the public have a part to play, and in which the general public were interested much more than they were interested—a part which they alone could play. He wanted the public to be good enough to accept one explicit and particular duty in this particular direction, and that was that they should avoid low-priced dispensing. (Applause.) The public could help the progress of the art of medicine, and certainly the alleviation of their own sufferings, by

AVOIDING AND SHUNNING LOW-PRICED DISPENSING.

Now, they all knew that the cultivation of the low-priced was one of the features of this last quarter of the nineteenth century. They knew that in everything—in the clothes they wore, in the food they ate, in the drinks they drank, in the houses they lived in, in the carriages they rode in, and in all that they put on—(laughter)—they knew that there had been a great cultivation in the public mind of that which was low in price. They knew that a great development had taken place in the means of communication with other countries, and that these developments had brought to our doors the products of other countries—whether to our advantage or not he must not now stop to say. All this had induced great competition in trade. The public had got into the way of expecting everything to be low-priced. He asked them to be pleased to note that he did not use the word "cheap"—(laughter)—but they expected everything to be low-priced, and they went about