

times professionally and otherwise prepared. However well you may now be versed in the principles of your profession, I would caution you against the fatal belief, which I fear too extensively prevails among graduates in medicine, that this day closes your professional studies. Remember that the science is advancing, that much labor is requisite to keep pace with its progress, that the numerous improvements of the past few years, the rigid method of induction now so extensively applied by men of extraordinary talents, well trained minds and great powers of continuous and laborious scientific investigation, who are devotedly and zealously engaged in the study of the different branches of the Science of Medicine, promise such large prospective additions to our already rich stores of knowledge, as no individual, however talented, can in justice to his patients or himself, ignore. Rather than that you should remain stationary in professional knowledge, whilst the science thus advances, far better would it have been for your own happiness, for the honour of our profession, and for the paramount interest of the community, had you never entered our temple. Not only should you endeavour to keep pace with the science, by reading the medical journals and new publications of merit, but you should also be ambitious, so far as opportunity offers to contribute towards its progress. Whilst thus improving your own powers of observation, description and reflexion, you will at the same time be repaying to those who are to succeed you, the debt you owe to the distinguished men who have gone before us. The departments of medical science, in which the greatest advances have been made of late years, are those of *organic chemistry*, *physiology* and *diagnosis*. The results arrived at by chemico-physiological researches, are fast becoming the basis of scientific medicine, and hold out the prospect of our being at no distant day, as intimately acquainted with the modes of origin, growth, nutrition, action and decay of the organic kingdoms, as an engineer is with the structure, power and action of a steam engine. It requires, therefore, but little reflection to perceive that both the engineer and physiologist, best acquainted with the structure and action of the machinery which they respectively superintend, are by far the fittest parties, for being entrusted with correcting their derangements. And as empiricism has disappeared from the sciences of astronomy and chemistry, as induction and exact knowledge has dispelled the delusions of astrology, alchemy and magic, so will the numerous ephemeral medical delusions of our times, disappear before the rising sun of physiological knowledge, which has already, to a great extent, unravelled the long concealed mysteries of organic life, and enabled us to see, as it were through a glass dimly, the endless design, the wonderful adaptation of means to ends,