

probably feel now, that I knew a great deal more than most, or at least as much as any of them. You will probably retain this opinion until you begin private practice, when you will commence to realize how much you have yet to learn, and I may add, the sooner you realize it the better, or, in the words of St. Paul, "If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet, as he ought to know."

Now that you have received your degree you belong to a profession which, if you rightly esteem the honor, entitles you to the highest position in society. The widow of one of Montreal's former most prominent medical men told me not long ago that in this country, where there is no hereditary aristocracy or nobility, the learned professions constituted the only aristocracy we had, and that among them none were more deserving of the first place than the one to which you now belong. But you must not think that this position is heaven-born, or that your degree and diploma are anything more than certificates; that you have mastered a certain amount of difficult technical knowledge. The title of M.D. which you have received to-day only confers a high position upon you, because the great majority of the honorable men who have borne it before you have raised their profession to that position by the high moral tone of their character and by their devotion to duty. And just as soon as the profession as a body ceases to be self-sacrificing in action, pure in character, honest in purpose, and noble in aspiration, it will no longer obtain or deserve the high esteem in which it is now held. There may at any time be a few black sheep in it, but they will generally be valued at their true worth, without in any way detracting from the reputation of this profession as a whole.

Each one of you is bound to do his share towards upholding its honor and integrity. Hardly anything that you can do will conduce more to this end than the strict observance of the etiquette which exists among medical men, the rules of which are embodied in the code of ethics, which is not a species of trades-unionism, as the public seem to think, founded for the purpose of protecting the business interests of the Doctors. St. Thomas was once asked for some rules of religion, when he replied in the famous sentence: "Love God and do what you will," and in like manner if you were to ask me to sum up the code of ethics I might reply: Be a gentleman to your brethren and the public and you

cannot err; you will do to others as you would have others do to you. So important do I consider this sometimes misunderstood qualification of being a gentleman that it has often seemed to me that it would be alike in the interests of the profession and the public that some test or guarantee that he is one should be devised and exacted from a candidate before allowing him to begin the study of medicine. In the words of the poet:

Who misses or who wins the prize—

Go lose or conquer, as you can;

But if you fail, or if you rise,

Be each, pray God, a gentleman.

Next to that there is another desideratum, which is often lost sight of, viz., that medical men should be gentlemen of culture, either in art, science or literature. The very title of Doctor supposes that he is learned; and learned not only in his own profession, but in all the allied sciences, and certainly as a body the profession is generally acknowledged to be composed of well-informed men, many of them occupying the highest rank in the army of scientific workers. Much of their learning has been acquired after they have been passed and stamped, instead of being possessed of it when it would have been of most use to them, viz., before beginning their medical studies, as I think it should.

The University of Laval has an old-fashioned way of encouraging intending medical students to make themselves generally well-informed before beginning the study of medicine, and that is by teaching them for something like half price if they have already graduated in art, science and literature. And since I have been engaged in teaching, some five years, I can quite understand why such a difference is made; for it is just twice easier to teach physiology, for instance, to a student who is familiar with natural philosophy than one who has had no scientific and classical education, beyond having his head crammed full of a jumble of words he hardly understands, during a few months previous to his commencing the study of medicine.

It is true you will have an opportunity of cultivating your minds during the next few years which generally have to elapse before the public have discovered your abilities. But this point brings me to some words of encouragement which at the outset of my address I promised to give you. Although, as you are probably aware, for the the first year or two you will have very little practice; you must not feel annoyed or discour-