

a set of men who may have their failings and short-comings, but who, on the average, are entitled to the respect and admiration of their fellow-beings. If we take the two or three thousand general practitioners constituting the great body of provincial medical men of this country, I doubt if it would be possible to find an equal number in any other class so industrious, so painstaking, and so worthy of esteem as these, often toiling day and night more for the love of doing good and for the sake of humanity than for the hope of pecuniary emolument. Where will you find any body of men who go through the same amount of worry and anxiety for so small a recompense? How few live the natural span of life! Worn out by unceasing labour or cut down by the hand of pestilence, striving to alleviate the sufferings of others when suffering most themselves, they fight the good fight to the bitter end, and we have reason to hope, receive at last their fitting reward.

Self-reliance with these men becomes a part of their very nature, without it they would be wholly unfit for the position they occupy; but to acquire this invaluable quality in its highest perfection they must have explored the whole field of medical science, and have learned to know something at least of all the ills to which human flesh is liable. Habits of accurate observation with a wide range of knowledge render these men equal to almost every emergency, and if they do not always display the grasp of detail that special study alone can give, who shall dare accuse them of ignorance or judge harshly of men who have done their best. Small wonder if mistakes are sometimes made in medical and surgical practice, when we compare ourselves with those who follow other callings. Just think of it. A man must serve five years' apprenticeship before he can be trusted to make a pair of shoes, and even then, of five hundred shoemakers, probably not five excel in their art. I might multiply similar instances, but a single sentence will suffice to express what I wish to convey. By constant practice only can the highest skill be attained. This is the true reason for the modern growth of specialism. Specialism in its best and purest form is a natural growth, and is only worthy