

dull prosaic side of life will be lightened by a consciousness of a noble duty effectually accomplished, which will throw around your ordinary duties a halo, and relieve the tedium of your solitary hours. Those men who have entered upon the study of medicine from love of it, make the best students and doctors,—the physician to be successful must think his profession the finest in the world.

Our profession is an arduous, yet fascinating one. Our responsibilities are great. "We are trusted as no other men are. By the force of circumstances, as well as by the relations of mutual confidence which grow up between the patient and his medical adviser, enormous power for good or evil lies within our hands, and on our discretion depends frequently the happiness and well-being of families." You are to become the trusted friend of the family, and whatever is entrusted to your care must be regarded as sacred; a breach of such trust will mark you as unworthy of the profession. Therefore do not make the ailments of any patient or their private affairs a topic wherewith to entertain others whilst making your daily rounds. There is no more objectionable individual than a gossiping doctor.

The question at the outset which undoubtedly has occurred to each of you is, "What am I going to do"? To some of you are open positions as house-surgeons in the hospitals, either in this city or elsewhere, and I would strongly urge the seeking of such positions. Once installed, you will find opportunities unexcelled of more properly fitting you for the great responsibilities of your calling. Here your mind will be trained to be observant, careful and exact in noting the details of cases under your direct charge.

The benefit of this cannot be overestimated, and it will stand you in good stead when out in general practice. Many a prominent physician and surgeon of the day owes his position to the proper use made of the opportunities afforded him in his capacity as house-physician and surgeon.

Others of you must be satisfied with the opportunities afforded of starting into general practice at once; unless under exceptional circumstances, it will be impossible for such to be fully occupied from the start. In this way the time at your disposal will at first be considerable, and you will form habits during this critical period which will leave their impress on your future life. Indolent and careless habits so easily grow upon one, that they have marred many a promising career, while habits of research and thoroughness, coupled with a love of the profession, are sure not only to lead to success but to greatly facilitate your future work. If you have few cases, let them