

object of your life. The student, as a rule, does not, unfortunately, look more than three or four years ahead, and he is inclined to let the future beyond take care of itself. It does this, but without, however, paying much attention to him who does not employ each year as it passes for that realization of the ideal which is considered to constitute success. All courses of study and all examinations merely insure the lowest standard of attainment that the necessities of the times permit, and beyond this they leave to the student the question of shaping his own career. His success in the future depends greatly on his capacity for foreseeing the wants of the future. Do not misunderstand me when I speak of success. How often do we hear the success of a physician or surgeon estimated by the magnitude of his practice! How often also do we find that it is his ambition to have a practice which will, in fact, engross all his time! That is in no sense my ideal of success; nor should it be that of any one who has a proper idea of the dignity of the profession. Success is rather to be estimated by the degree of professional qualifications to which one has attained, and of the recognition by the public of the attainment. The public must not, however, be set up as the final and only judge of success, for sometimes ignorance, sometimes fashion, may make a quack or a sham the idol of the hour. That has happened often in the past, and will, in all likelihood, happen often again. It is, in fact, not the quantity of professional work done, but the quality of it, that is the measure of success.

In discussing the future of medical science, there are two questions which must first of all be answered: What is medical science, and how far into the future do we propose to dip? The first question may be answered by the statement that it is that body of knowledge obtained through observation and experiment concerning the origin, course, and termination of disease and the influences which modify it. This is pathology, but in a wider sense than that usually given the term. It includes, in addition to pathology in the narrower sense, the foundation sciences, biology, physiology, bacteriology, and physiological chemistry; and whatever, therefore, advances these will in a great measure aid in the advancement of medical science. The latter must always be in advance of medical practice, for it will always excel our knowledge of how the controlling influences are to be used or best employed; but the distance between the two will always depend on the skill and intelligence of the profession as a whole in any one generation.

In regard to the other question, I may say that to discuss the condition of affairs which shall obtain when we shall have ceased to take an interest in them is a performance of simple intellectual amusement, and of no practical advantage to us; and, as the average length of a practitioner's life ranges between thirty and forty years, a period of thirty-five years, reaching