

invariably followed by serious consequences. The brain absolutely requires this period of rest, or else the memory will be weakened and the system suffer deterioration.

The importance of practical anatomy, physiology, chemistry and clinics, are now fully recognized. They form an essential element in your studies, enabling you to leave College with something better to work on than mere theory. As much time is required for their exercise, the period formerly devoted to reading is now curtailed, and this is an additional reason why your studies should be continued for another year. A reform is also needed in the manner of your examinations, which should be yearly, and thus by degrees carrying you on towards the end. At present the freshman does not see the necessity of applying himself to study, his examinations are apparently so far off, that he is apt to become careless and waste precious time in idleness and frivolity, instead of learning the technicalities of his study. A few questions, taken from a multitude, cannot be a true test of a student's ability; if he is familiar with them he gets through, but if unexpected, though he may be generally well read, how bitter the disappointment. A graduated system of examinations must increase the amount of facts to be remembered, and enable the student to have a better understanding of the different theories which present themselves. The public would derive greater benefit and the individual would feel himself better qualified to cope with disease. I have often, when lecturing, been struck with the absurdity of the present system of expecting a mixed class of freshmen and seniors equally to understand the subject on hand. To the former, the greater portion of the lecture might as well have been delivered in sanscrit; to the latter, who, having become familiar with its technicalities, it brought to memory previous dissections and explained much to them that was obscure.

By your presence here I infer that you must have acquired the elements of a good education, the necessity of which is as important in the medical profession as in any other. There is one subject, however, which is not included in your preliminary examination, which rightfully belongs to it. I refer to botany and zoology. Placed among your medical studies it occupies the time which should be devoted to more important matter. I believe with Professor Huxley, "that any one who adds to medical education one iota or tittle beyond what is absolutely required is guilty of a very grave offence." And botany and zoology are additions which could well be left out of

a regular course of medical study, being remnants of a by-gone age. Many devote more attention to these subjects during their first year than to the other and more essential branches which they are supposed to be also studying, so that valuable time is lost in preparing a subject which never afterwards receives any attention.

Do not think that I wish to deprecate the importance of these or any other scientific branches of study; if properly understood, they give the individual a broader stand-point. The object of your attendance here is not to become botanists or zoologists or even apothecaries, but to become physicians and surgeons; and, therefore, all studies, apart from those which pertain to that end, should be set aside.

Of the various subjects which will occupy your attention I will first mention that which I have the honor to teach. I place it first, not because it is my department or from a wish to give it undue prominence, but from the fact that it is the very foundation of your studies. Upon it is erected the science of medicine, and it is the chief corner-stone of surgery.

The poet has said that "the proper study of mankind is man;" among the many aspects which that study presents none is superior than the examination of that wonderful and complex structure which was called into existence by the breath of the Almighty, and which was the crowning development of the great plan of animal creation. The importance of the subject in relation to your other studies cannot be overrated: for, it is impossible for you to become skillful or confident surgeons without having an intimate knowledge of the parts upon which you operate, nor can you, as physicians, expect to make a correct diagnosis of disease unless you thoroughly understand the arrangement of each organ. In disorders of the nervous system is this more especially the case. I place the subject before you in as strong a light as possible, and I have one very good reason for doing so. You will have opportunities hereafter of forming a more extended acquaintance with the other branches of your curriculum; but not with this, unless you can attend a dissecting room, so that here alone can you hope to become familiar with the anatomy of the human body. Prize this opportunity of making practical dissections, reading or lectures are only guides, and will not give you that just appreciation of the subject which is required. It not only makes you familiar with the appearance of each structure, but it also makes you at home with the knife, so that you gradually acquire