

building up a practice. He has to deliberately make a selection of work for which he is physically, intellectually, and in temperament best fitted. This does not imply that he is to be nothing more than a specialist in the narrow acceptance of this term. While an authority in his chosen field, he must have a clear conception of the effects of both normal and morbid conditions elsewhere in the body, e.g., the removal of the ovaries for conditions solely due to hyperthyroidism is an unpardonable blunder. He must be richly endowed with that scientific spirit, which is the talisman of the pioneer in every forward movement. He is not to be a mere collator of other men's knowledge, for there are yet many great problems in medicine awaiting solution. He must strive to "blaze a path" a little further on for the army of general practitioners. He should try to do for Canada what Lister, Pasteur, Koch, and a host of others have done for their age and country.

The reader, if a young man, may say, "It is all very well to tell us what our duties are, but what about those of the older men in regard to helping and encouraging us?" The first duty of the more aged members of the hospital staff is to make themselves useless as members of it. The founder and head of one of the greatest industrial establishments in the world was asked, "What is really the great mission of your life?" His reply was, "To make myself absolutely useless. Were I to die to-night the stock would not depreciate, nor a wheel cease running, for I have trained others who are far more capable of managing this business than ever I have been." If old men have one mission in life more noble than another, it is to be a help in preparing young men to do better work than they were ever able to do. It is a most lamentable commentary on any vocation if it can be truthfully said that in regard to the attainment of a broader outlook, the acquisition of new knowledge, or in the adoption of better methods, the majority of its members cease to make any progress after reaching mid-life. The work of each day being but the spiritless repetition of that of yesterday, and of the days that are gone. Close association with younger men, and being interested in their work, prevent any such stagnation.

One of the most inspiring features in the political life of our country are the efforts that have been made during the past few years to eradicate the abuses of the patronage system. It is in the choice of young men to fill hospital appointments that the senior members of the staff can do very effective work. If these positions be made a reward for merit, the attaining of them would be a splendid incentive for good work among our young graduates. Another inducement might legiti-