

our profession, and of your conduct towards your patients: let me now say a word or two with regard to your conduct toward your professional brethren. A proper appreciation of this will, I assure you, do much, very much, to make your professional life a comfortable one. I can hardly conceive of anything so deserving of severe condemnation, as deliberately acting in a way which must re-act injuriously on a brother practitioner. Gentlemen, scorn to do a mean action; be honest, straightforward, upright, ever speak well of a confrère, and never attempt to heighten your own attainments by a deliberate attempt at proving him your inferior. Throw aside all narrow considerations, work willingly, heartily, with those who are laboring in the common vineyard with yourselves. Bring your information, your experience, into the common stock, and I am confident you will never regret having done so. Ever be ready to do a kind act for a professional brother, for you know not how soon he may be able to do one for you. Life is too short to engage in unseemly quarrels, and professional quarrels are unseemly I assure you. Avoid them, I beg of you.

A few short hours, and the small band of graduates now before me will have scattered, each going to his own sphere of labor. Believe me, gentlemen, the Medical Faculty of this University will watch your career with no common interest, and will rejoice most heartily when success lights upon your banners. On your part, gentlemen, I trust I may express the hope that, though separated by distance from the scene of your former labors, you will ever take a warm interest in the success of your Alma Mater. She has cherished and nourished you, and now, proud of your attainments, she sends you into the world to battle with disease and death. Work then while you are young, in the morning and vigor of your intellectual and physical powers; for to fold your arms in idleness is to stagnate and die. Work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

And now, brethren, members of our noble profession, go forth upon your high commission, and see that you blot not the fair escutcheon of your calling.

God grant that when your course shall have ended, your epitaph may be like that which is so touchingly described in the following lines, written by Jean Ingelow:

"So said, he raised, according to his vow,
On the green grass, where oft his townfolk met
Under the shadow of a leafy bough
That leaped toward a singing rivulet,
A pure white stone whereon, like crown on brow,
The image of the vanished star was set:
And this was graven on the pure white stone,
In golden letters—WHILE SHE LIVED SHE SHONE!"

Progress of Medical Science.

PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

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GENTLEMEN:—We will now pass to the study of those lesions in the lungs which are usually classed together under the names of pulmonary phthisis, tuberculosis, or consumption. You are doubtless aware that much difference of opinion exists as to the real nature of these lesions, and you may even have been discouraged by reading the different views expressed in your text-books concerning them.

It is my wish to try to render the subject somewhat plainer to you, by stating as definitely as possible what the terms of the problem are which we are called upon to solve.

One of the first points which strikes us in our study of this question is that we have to deal with three distinct conditions—scrofula, tubercles, and inflammatory products. Let us, therefore, consider these three conditions separately, and then try to see how they are related to each other.

Of scrofula we see so little in this country that it is difficult for us to appreciate the prominent place it holds in the minds of physicians in European countries. It is a condition which is hardly susceptible of a definition, and yet it is not hard to understand what is meant by the term. It means this: When an individual acquires an inflammation of a mucous membrane, of the skin, of the joints, of the bones, of the genito-urinary apparatus, or of almost any part of the body, such an inflammation usually runs an acute course, and terminates in resolution, or in suppuration, or in the formation of organized new tissue. But if the inflammation, instead of doing this, simply reaches a certain point and stays there, and then, instead of resolving, or of suppurating, merely goes through a succession of degenerative changes such an inflammation is said to be scrofulous. The scrofulous inflammations have several well-marked characteristics. They are very slow in their progress; they are very rebellious to treatment; they are accompanied by an extensive cellular infiltration of the inflamed parts, so that when the degenerative changes ensue there is large destruction of tissue. The degeneration which occurs in the products of such a scrofulous inflammation is peculiar in its nature; it is commonly called cheesy degeneration, and consists in the transformation of the products of inflammation into a dry, yellow mass composed of amorphous granular matter. Examples of this form of inflammation will at once occur to you. Caries of the vertebrae, hip-joint disease, white swelling of the knee-joint, scrofulous orchitis, and enlarged lymphatic glands are all of frequent occurrence. Of the scrofulous inflammations of the skin and mucous membranes we see but little in New York.

You will see at once that such inflammations as these, running this peculiar course, can be explained