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## The University and the Profession of Medicine.

THE life-work of the physician is, of course, to cure or palliate the ills that flesh is heir to, and to minister to the mind diseased. This is at least his chief aim and concern, and it is enough for most men. With the issues of life and the chances of death ever in view, he must have the mien of cheerful sobriety, and be prepared to sacrifice self. Man as a mere animal he often sees and yet has to bear in mind his composite nature, and the profound and far-reaching influence of the mental and spiritual upon the physical; and he should have a deep insight into habits and men, into heredity and environment. He must be above suspicion himself, though he may not escape reproach and even censure. He will be the depository of secrets which must be held inviolable although he has not taken the Hippocratic oath at lauration. He must be a guide, philosopher and friend, as well as skilled adviser; must play the good Samaritan, and ever be the unwilling instrument of the discipline of life to others: Quick of eye and ear and deft of hand, he must be alert of mind and cautious of speech. Notoriety, fame and wealth are not his goal; he may attain them, but they are incidents, possibly accidents, in the career of Medicine. Unlike his brother of the forum or the pulpit, the practitioner of Medicine must ever be content to do his duty quietly, if not secretly and without the incentives that cluster about these. That fame does come without the seeking, and that honest work as well as genius have their field and their reward in Medicine can easily be shown and almost goes without saying.

Medicine is many-sided, and its votaries should have not only practical knowledge, but varied attainments; and their duties and qualities should, therefore, make them valuable members of society and the community. They should, moreover, be too well-read and well-balanced to be quacks and faddists, of which class the educated and wealthy of the laity, strange to say, are too often the dupes. It is the privilege, therefore, as well as the duty of the physician to show his aptness in aiding nature to cure disease and thus furnish the antidote to quackery.

All this means that however thorough and exacting the course of study in Medicine is—and the present one is good though far from perfect—the practitioner will in various ways be the best prepared for his life-work and high calling who has also had an Arts training. This is the confession and testimony

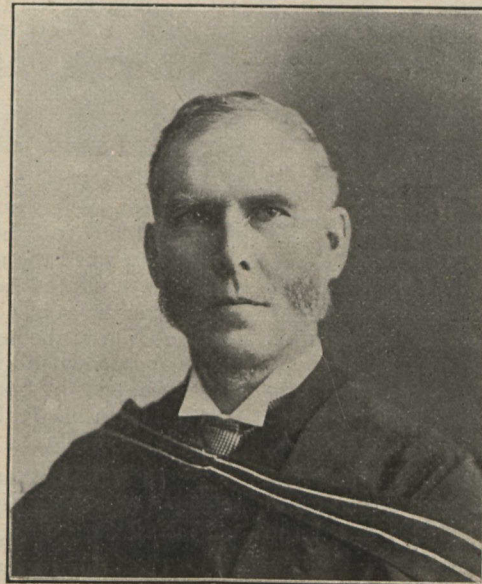
of those who have achieved success without it. A good knowledge of Greek and Latin, in addition to its bearing on style and culture, will help him much in acquiring the rapidly-growing vocabulary of Medicine and the allied sciences: German, French and Italian, the first two, at any rate, will prove a great aid in the study of progressive medicine, in literature and at the great medical centres abroad, and will also be useful in view of the great influx of foreigners into the country. The mental discipline involved in the study of Mathematics must prove of distinct value apart from its service as a basis of Physics, the mastery of which is now essential. The members of every profession should, of course, have a good knowledge of History and English. To the hard-worked physician it is both a solace and respite to take again, from time to time, a draught from the "Well of English Unfiled."

In the study of History, secular and sacred, he will at least have learned that we are indeed the heirs of the ages, that many new things are really old, if not ancient; and that humility is becoming even in those who honestly aim at adding to their precious heritage. The mental training of Metaphysics and of Logic from their methods is a boon to the prospective practitioner which too often is ignored. It certainly tends to correct superficiality, that foible of men in general in which the physician is apt to share to his detriment. Psychology, the study of the natural history of the mind, as it is termed, is plainly of positive value to those whose aim shall be the mastery of the natural history of disease, and its experimental side is strictly in line with clinical methods.

Archæology, too, is not without its lessons to those whose duty it is to know something of the men and their work who laid the foundations of the Temple of Medicine with patient toil and at great odds. Chemistry, Physiology, Biology and Anatomy are, of course, essential factors in the study and practice of medicine. The mastery of general principles concerning matter and of leading facts in the make-up and organic life of man, and of living things in general, gained in the earlier Arts course will prove of distinct service in the later studies of the Medical student.

The new combined course for B.A. and M.B. happily combines general culture with a scientific training adapted to produce the best type of practitioner.

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