

medicine except his own panacea and all medical men except himself.

You must be prepared to find many examples of the fallacy I allude to, but you must never lose sight of the true principle; that he who most carefully and conscientiously studies a subject, must infallibly, other things being equal, become the best qualified in regard to it, and that his fellow citizens will sooner or later find this out.

But the profession itself is not entirely innocent in this matter; carelessness or routine may bring the practice of medicine into disrepute, or the mistakes of one age may prepare the way for quackery in the next. Had it not been for the abuse of drugs during the last century, the doctrine of infinitesimal doses would have been impossible in the present. But even within the profession itself there is much quackery, and it is this which is most dangerous, because more insidious and more difficult to be guarded against. Traitors in the camp are more to be dreaded than foes in the open field. The worst enemies of legitimate medicine are often its professed friends.

From all such crooked paths let me most emphatically warn you. Let it be your object never to commit an action or to say a word you could afterwards be ashamed of. By never making professions which you do not conscientiously feel that you can fully carry out, by never seeking to advance your own interests at the expense of another's, you will preserve your own self-respect, and you are sure to merit and to obtain the approbation of others.

But, gentlemen, supposing that you have surmounted all the difficulties incident to the earlier part of your career, and have established yourselves in ample practice, your troubles are by no means at an end. The public can have no conception, and you yourselves but a faint one, of all the stern realities of a doctor's life. How few will give him credit for his quiet endurance, his anxious watchings, his baffled hopes, his untiring self-sacrifice? See him in the full tide of his professional career; what a life of anxious troubled unrest, what exorbitant exactions are made upon his resources, what unthinking demands upon his time and his vital energies? By day and by night, in sunshine and in storm, on work-day and on the day of rest, for rich and for poor, with or without recompense, he must ever obey the call of suffering humanity.

And again, he must be ever ready to encounter accidents, disease, and death, in all their most appalling forms; when friends are paralyzed with fear, when contagion carries panic to the stoutest hearts, he must be there calm and unmoved. Life may be ebbing fast through the bleeding artery the shattered limb, the victim of cholera may present the most hideous features of death whilst yet writhing in vital