

elapsed since I stood where you stand to-day ! Would that I could write in indelible characters upon your brains the lessons these years have taught me ! But alas ! it is not ordained that knowledge or experience should be so transmitted. Each one must pass through the ordeal for himself. In this respect, at least, all men are equal. It is scarcely necessary that I should point out to you, at the very outset, the importance, nay, the absolute necessity of leading healthy, normal lives, and of conducting yourselves with absolute uprightness in every relation of life, in order that, with sound minds in sound bodies, and meriting the trust and confidence of your clients, you may always be prepared to give the best advice and to render the best aid. You must aim not only at being good physicians and good surgeons, but also at being exemplary men and good citizens. The modern physician stands before the public as a teacher and an authority on all matters pertaining to health and disease, and he must, therefore, teach by example as well as precept. He owes, and must recognize, duties to the state and to society, and while dealing with the individual, he must not overlook the interests of the community. We now know that most, if not all, the great death-dealing scourges are preventible, and it is our duty to be ever watchful to arrest the outbreak or to prevent the spread of epidemic or contagious disease. The co-operation of the public is essential to such results, and to co-operate intelligently they must be educated. The grotesque and fanciful views of medicine and of disease which still prevail in all ranks of society, are evidences at once of the necessity for education of the public and of the too great limitation of the efforts of our profession in the past. Let it be known that we claim no mysterious powers, that we recognize no mysterious nor supernatural agencies, that we aim only at acquiring a knowledge of disease and of the best methods of dealing with it, and that we are prepared to learn from any source. Standing now, as you are to-day upon the threshold of your careers, it is all important that you should enter upon your life-work with proper conceptions of your duties and responsibilities, and that you should begin at once to cultivate and develop habits of industry, patience, perseverance and self-denial, without which,