

upon our operations with solicitude and apprehension; for we distrusted our powers and dreaded the success of imperfect and immaturred plans: it is not for us to say in what manner our task was accomplished; but we declare that the result has exceeded our fondest hopes. If not brilliant, our lectures were at least conducive to instruction; for some of you, towards the close and after the termination of the session passed examinations creditable to yourselves and satisfactory to us. If our efforts did not rival those of others, they established for us at least a name for industry and perseverance. In our first course, we came before you almost literally unprepared; and as to mine own particular branch, in which material is so requisite, I was, *de facto*, destitute of nearly every description of apparatus; yet we progressed and completed a course of eighty lectures. This year we begin under far less unfavourable auspices, and the advantages we offer are of a less limited character. In the interval since our separation, we have made every exertion to bring our School into a condition whereby it will no longer be termed a "pseudo" attempt. We have taken commodious premises, by which more comfort will be obtained; we have made up from our individual books a library of upwards of one thousand volumes; we have, too, an embryo museum,—towards the forming of which, the preparations of Dr. H. Nelson, your Lecturer on Anatomy, together with those of Dr. Crawford, have chiefly contributed; we have a complete chemical apparatus, and a large number of plates, coloured and lithographed, of various morbid conditions. With all these additions and means, we may now say, that we have fairly entered the arena—of competition let it be called—but it will be one of honourable and justifiable endeavour, if not to excel, (that could scarcely be possible,) at least to equal our rivals in science.

To attempt to rear a new Medical School in the very stronghold of an Institution which was established by some of the ablest men which this country has produced,—the greater part of whom are, alas! now numbered with the dead!—an Institution which has flourished for many years, and has taken such deep root in the popular soil, that its decrees have assumed a species of patriarchal—I was about saying a hierarchal—authority in the land:—whose influence has been so wide-spreading, that its opinions have been deemed infallible; a school, incorporate, connected with a University,—endowed;—I say that such an attempt must be admitted as being one of no ordinary magnitude. We have passed the ordeal, and we assume no illegitimate spirit of prophecy, when we declare our moral conviction—drawn from our knowledge of events, that, in a very few years, our College will not yield to any other, either in the superiority of the education promised, or of the qualifications which its students may therefrom derive.

I said some time past, that the study of Chemistry was indispensably necessary to a thorough knowledge of your profession: its laws are almost of universal application, and the objects comprehended within its sphere embrace all substances composing the globe. Chemistry, as other sciences, has had its hour of darkness, and its day of glory,—at one time confined to a few, its then known laws mystified, and their results made subservient to charlatanic purposes and pseudo-medical agents; at another, considered as all powerful and capable of resolving every genus of problems connected with disease and health. Even the visionary ideas of the Chemists, *par excellence*, have contributed to our stock of knowledge,—from error we have derived arguments of truth, and the ardent pursuit, after the philosopher's stone and the elixir vitæ, has added to our stores. Very shortly after this time we find Chemistry studied on some standard of firmness; Boyle, Priestly, &c. &c. lent their aid and gave it an impulse which has since increased and matured, till, in our days, we have intellects as bright, and names as great and glorious, in this department of science, as that of him who has given us the system of the planetary spheres. It is not, however, my intention to give a history of Chemistry,—it would be tedious and unprofitable.

To the physician—to the natural philosopher—to the agriculturist—to the