

and those who prefer footlight flashes to its steady radiance are being warned to beware the Ides of March.

About seventy per cent of the speakers will refer in a patronizing way to Hippocrates, Jenner will have his meed of praise from almost as large a proportion, while Harvey, Hunter, McDowall, Pasteur, Lister and Koch, on nearly every ticket will receive renomination for deathless fame. Flowers of rhetoric will bloom in these addresses while their brilliant perorations will be rounded off with apt quotations from the "Psalm of Life," or from the Book of Books. It is sad, but true, that before the week is out nineteen-twentieths of all this eloquence will have been forgotten—will have gone to join the figures that have been upon a slate and have been rubbed out.

Of late there has been a growing tendency to look with disfavour upon these October meetings, and from what has just been said you may possibly get the impression that I am not profoundly imbued with veneration for such time-honoured functions. And yet, looking back to the time, twenty years ago to day, when I listened to my first lecture on medicine, I can recall one old man who talked to us boys of the life upon which we were entering, and whose earnest words became formative influences in the subsequent intellectual development of his listeners.

Ideals then being formed of what a physician's life might be and should be, were rounded into symmetrical form by his words, and if afterwards we had no loftier scorn for the ignoble things in medical life, and no keener desire to reach success by ways along which we could ask the God of our fathers to guide us, we were unworthy to have listened—we had had our opportunity and had misused it.

In the evolution of a doctor, ideals precede reals and fashion them. If the ideal life be low the real life will never reach any very high plane. Ideals change from year to year, but though they be never attained "The end may tell an unreachd ideal guided well."

Webster wrote, "All is safe so long as the better sentiments are uppermost," while Lowell, with keener insight, gives warning that, "There is no self delusion more fatal than that which makes the conscience dreamy with the anodyne of lofty sentiment while the life is grovelling."

That you have chosen medicine for your work in life indicates that you have aims beyond mere money getting. No doubt you expect to make a living by your profession, and so you will if you are not the victim of a certain incurable malady called laziness, if you are not handicapped by illness, and if you are wise enough to let liquor alone. You have doubtless counted the cost and given up the idea of ever becoming very wealthy men. Millionaires are commonly enough, in fact too commonly found in other callings, but as regards medicine they are like the snakes in Ireland.

Most recent and reliable statistics go to prove that your expectation of life as physicians is shorter than the average. Collectively, not individually, you will die before you reach the age of fifty years, and if you have not prudently taken advantage of what life insurance can do for the wives you will win and the children you will accumulate, they will be left but poorly provided for. The large income which you will earn, and the much smaller income which you will collect, will have to be spent in keeping up appearances as well as in providing those things which are requisite and necessary as well for the body as for the mind.

In the United States about twenty seven out of each one hundred graduates finally succeed in making a living by medicine alone. The larger proportion try it for a while and then give it up for something else, or join with it the keeping of drug stores and kindred ventures. When we take into account the usual inadequate preliminary education, the short course of study and the versatility which enables the average American to turn his hand to anything, we need not wonder that the proportion of those who stick to medicine is so small. With us it is different. We enter into the practice of medicine as we do into the holy state of matrimony, till death do us part—not for a convenient season or until we think we discover some slight incompatibility. Ontario medical students during their long and arduous course of training become so rooted and grounded in the faith that they stick to it and stick at it with such dogged perseverance that success becomes almost a foregone conclusion.

I have been interested in following up the history of our graduates and at some future date will have figures ready to prove an assertion which I now venture to make; this is that the students of Trinity Medical College prosper in a proportion and to a degree not excelled by those of any other medical teaching body on this continent. From time to time we hear of one and of another who is an acknowledged failure or who has gone into some form of quackery, but it must be remembered that the list of our graduates has grown to great length. Once a prying neighbour said, "Mrs. McFluffy, isn't there one of your boys in the penitentiary?" and the reply came "Maybe there is, but I've had nine and sure you couldn't expect them all to be good." When the temptation comes to you, gentlemen, to leave the highways of medicine and try to reach success and gain wealth by ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, let me ask you to recall the words of an eminent physician, one whom I have found always careful to know whereof he spoke. He said recently, "The quacks

get rich but they go to hell." My own investigations have not been carried as far as that, but if the penalties are made to fit the crimes committed against society by some of the people to whom he referred, they will be largely represented in that final abode of sinful souls.

It has long been a matter of observation that the factors which determine the success or the failure of a physician in practice, begin to make themselves manifest during his student days. Diligence or its reverse, concentrated and intelligent attention, or bored indifference, carelessness, that besetting and upsetting sin of our calling, or careful work, accurate in every detail—those are among the elements that make or mar the medical student and the medical man.

His earliest professional teachers by their oral instructions, characters or conduct often profoundly influence his whole career. Dr. Osler, a Canadian of whom we are all justly proud, has gracefully referred to the influence which Johnson, Bovell and Howard had in giving to his studies a certain trend, and in enabling him to attain that trick of industry which is responsible for no small part of his success.

On the other hand, and as a warning, let me mention that three of my friends read medicine under the same preceptor a quarter of a century ago, and from habits formed then they still give calomel in all cases of doubtful diagnosis.

A medical man, like a Scotchman, needs to be started right, because if wrong he is apt to be eternally wrong.

In casting about for a subject upon which to address you, it seemed to me that your attention might properly be directed to some few of the elements of success in medical practice.

It may be taken for granted that you come to us with the first of these essentials—that is, with a fair and reasonable degree of preliminary education. A paternal government by and through the authority which it has delegated to our Medical Council has subjected you to certain examinations more exacting and comprehensive in their requirements than those which you would have been obliged to pass in any other state or province in America. I am glad that an uneducated person cannot now make even a legal beginning of the study of medicine in Ontario. The tendency of the times is to make fewer doctors and better ones.

True, in a number of medical colleges in the lesser half of North America the only preliminary requirements are a white skin, a male attire and a five dollar fee, but the better schools now subject their raw recruits to an entrance examination, and if improvement goes on at its present rate, they may reach our standard within the present century.

The medical laws of Ontario are not yet perfect, and they have not always been judiciously administered, but they are to-day the best in the world, and as a profession we may justly feel proud of them. No one can conscientiously and sensibly question the right of the state to demand of those in whose care the lives of its citizens will be placed, that they shall be possessed of such mental training as is essential for conducting logical thought, and that they shall be fully abreast of the general advancement of the science and art of medicine.

An English statesman once said that in the appointment of a judge he tried to find a gentleman, and if incidentally the one selected was found to know a little law, so much the better.

If you are to furnish in your own persons and experiences shining examples of the survival of the fittest, it is first before all essential that you should be gentlemen. Now to be a gentleman, the Autocrat tells us, one should begin with one's grandfather; in this he is probably as correct as when he tells us that the training of a child should begin one hundred years before it is born. But the selection of grandparent up to the present time has been a neglected art. As it becomes developed, the grandchildren that are to be will receive benefits that the grandchildren here assembled must do without.

What is it to be a gentleman? Let Thackeray answer: "It is to have lofty aims; to lead a pure life; to keep your honor virgin; to have the esteem of your fellow-citizens and the love of your fireside; to bear good fortune meekly, to suffer evil with constancy and through evil or good report to maintain truth always." At the very foundation of the gentlemanly character lies obedience to the Golden Rule. Station in life, wealth or family cannot make a gentleman. It is the outward manifestation of a pure and kindly nature. Artificial manners and the affectation of gentlemanly conduct may for a time deceive the very elect, but unless a man is, or becomes a gentleman in his heart he will sooner or later stand revealed as something less and something worse than he has made pretence of being. If the character of a true gentleman is one of your ideals you will hardly need a code of ethics by which to regulate your conduct toward your fellow-students, or later, toward your brother practitioners.

*Per contra*, no code ever written will make Caliban an agreeable fellow-student or a good medical neighbour. And unfortunately Caliban does sometimes study medicine.

Thorough, conscientious, persistent hard work is the next essential. Its importance has been insisted upon at about every introductory lecture delivered since the landing of Columbus. From this