

and the lively boys we once knew have become staid country gentlemen. Some I see on the platform beside me; two are fellow labourers with me now. Alas, many of our students and graduates have gone to their long homes, and sleep in the quiet churchyard. You are now now about to reduce to practice the knowledge you have acquired here and elsewhere to practise a profession which is respected far and wide. Now that the tie hitherto existing between you as students and us as teachers is about to be severed, I confidently trust that you go from our midst not only well furnished with sound, useful information regarding the science of medicine, but also with minds well disciplined and evenly balanced. This is in fact one great object of study. The importance of training the mind to correct habits of thought cannot be over-estimated, and in no walk of life is it more necessary than in the practice of the profession of medicine. Storing the mind with facts is not only desirable but necessary, but facts of themselves, however, are of little value till they are worked on by the intellect, just as food taken into the stomach cannot serve any useful purpose till it has been digested and become a part of the body. It is desirable above all things that the mind should be strong and capable of digesting facts presented to it, rejecting the crudities and assimilating that which is suitable and beneficial. There are of course many important facts connected with the particular walk of life in which individuals are placed which it is essential should be stored up, but it is vastly more important that the mind should be strong than full; far better is it for a man to have a well disciplined mind, with few facts to work on, than to be a mere walking encyclopædia; just as it is much better to have a good digestion and meagre fare, than to be incapable of digesting anything, although in a position to feast like a *Lentulus*. The mind is undoubtedly best disciplined and prepared for studying causes and effects, the bearing of one fact on another, correct habits of observation are best formed, and a facility of expressing ideas correctly and lucidly acquired by a previous systematic application to the study of mathe-