

into your service every kind of science as aid, assistant or minister to your own, do you enlarge its scope and usefulness. In the present day the division of labor is carried to a great extent, so much so that fifty years ago we had shoemakers who could make a pair of shoes from beginning to end, and we had shoes; but now-a-days to make a shoe requires about twenty men, women or children, each one runs a machine and becomes perfect in that work, but can do nothing else, and the shoemaker will soon be a man of the past. So with other trades; and thus also is it rapidly becoming in the medical profession. We have specialists for almost every part of the human frame, and who start out and practice their specialty from the first. If this goes on unchecked, we shall arrive at special hospitals, special treatment, special everything until the good old general practitioner becomes a man of the past. I warn you, therefore, gentlemen, to study all parts of your profession equally, and if in course of your practice, from circumstances or inclination, you desire to treat or become more familiar with any particular kind of disease that man is heir to, then you will be at liberty to take up the specialism. Another matter: We used, in my young days, to seek a specialist with our patient. He gave his opinion, and the general practitioner saw that this special treatment was carried out; there was a mutual understanding between the family attendant and the specialist. Now the specialist asserts himself as something superior to the family physician and ignores him altogether, although for the welfare of the patient a mutual confidence may be necessary. Be warned, therefore, against such practice in time, and if you desire to practice a specialty, do so only after a time spent in the study of the human system under treatment for disease in general, so that you may be able to understand better what special aberrations may require, what constitutional treatment, and what special lesions may be the result of constitutional infirmity; and in this matter seek the advice of the family physician, who is familiar with the history of your patient.

It is now nearly twenty years since the Faculty of Medicine did me the honor of asking me to address the then graduating