

As your instructor in mental diseases, it would hardly be right that I should allow you to escape all mention of the place occupied by my own specialty in your future career. "The proper study of mankind is man" said the poet Pope, and in a very special sense is this true of the medical profession. You, whose duty it will be to consider all that relates to the health of your fellow-men, have to regard man not only as an organized being having certain relations to the external world, but also as endowed with a mental constitution, through which his material organization is constantly influenced. You know how closely the mind and body are related to each other in health and disease, it therefore behoves you to watch well and carefully analyze the mental peculiarities of your patients. Believe me, there is no department of study to which you can give attention that will yield more therapeutic aid in dealing with the sick than a thorough cultivation of the power of quickly estimating their mental states. The psychological conditions of a patient exercise an important influence on the progress of disease, on the character of secretions and excretions, and on the effects of various remedies. It is, therefore, just as necessary that you should give some study to the intellectual powers of your charge, that you should know how to handle his will, imagination, and emotions, as it is that you should know how and when to give certain drugs, and the effects you expect them to yield. When you come to the bedside of the sick try to enter into the feelings and moods of the patient, remember that pain and disease are stern realities, changing the mental tones so that you cannot judge the sick by the well. At the bedside, too, be brave-hearted and joyous. Physical health is, unfortunately, not contagious, but mental and moral health is. There is much sound sense in the old quatrain :—

"Speak sober truth with smiling lips; the bitter wrap in sweetness,

Sound sense in seeming nonsense, as the grain is hid in chaff.

And fear not that the lesson e'er may seem to lack completeness,

A man may say a wise thing, though he say it with a laugh."

And now, as you bid adieu to all the pleasant memories of student-life to enter on the battle which all must wage, with our united right hands we give you a reluctant good-by, a hearty God-speed. In many a graver season, I doubt not, you will look back on the busy, happy hours, full of brightest hope, passed in the college halls, and will long cherish the friendships formed therein. Let me add, in conclusion, that in receiving your degrees to-day, you have pledged yourselves to your Alma Mater. Her vows are on you. You go forth as true knights sworn to honour and fidelity. See that no act of yours brings discredit on her.

Always, throughout your life, let your motto be loyalty,—loyalty to yourselves, loyalty to your fellow-men, loyalty to your Alma Mater, Old McGill.