

true, it is essential for medical men to be thoroughly educated and fitted for their work. Therefore, it is well for you who intend studying medicine not to lose sight of these opinions, coming as they do from men of fame and experience. Rush not into the study of medicine from the promptings of idle curiosity; do not regard it as requiring less ability than other professions; provide yourselves with as thorough a preliminary education as is in your power, remembering that your difficulties subsequently will be inversely proportional to the extent of this. Overlook the present barriers to encouragement, remembering that your profession is worthy of your sternest efforts, and a scrutinizing people shall discern and appreciate your talents. Remember that, it is said, not a single advancement has made in the science of medicine, during the past four hundred years, by any other than those of culture and learning. Remember also that the medical student's path is strewn with difficulties and temptations which only a strengthened mind can successfully combat.

The dawn of the medical millenium has not yet appeared and that ideal state—when medicine shall be preventive instead of curative—is yet far off. The old and distinguished as well as the young and inexperienced are alike imperfect and are frequently in error in their diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. This simply points to the limit beyond which man's knowledge cannot penetrate. Velpaen tied the carotid for a supposed aneurism when it was only a simple tumor and thus killed his patient. Dease on the contrary plunged his lancet into an aneurism thinking it only an abscess and thus gave exit to the patient's blood and life. Prognosis is not less mysterious. Simon Stone was shot in nine places and hacked with a hatchet and yet lived. Colonel Rossiter, cracking a plum stone with his teeth broke a tooth and lost his life. Jabez Musgrove was shot with a bullet which went in at his ear and came out at his eye, but still he lived for many years, likewise a man who had a crowbar shot through his head; while Spigelius, a physician, died from a mere scratch.

Medicine is a liberal profession, requiring culture and knowledge and skill. It is not a trade for money making, nor a field for vaulting ambition. The physician's object is to combat disease; he is, therefore, the servant of the suffering; he has to go down among the fetid haunts of disease and death, spend his days and nights, risk health and life, to relieve affliction and distress. Why then should not the medical student examine his conscience for the fortitude, mental power, moral rectitude, industry, self-control, self-denial, manual dexterity and general physical vitality which are as necessary for the physician or surgeon as his medicine or his scalpel. The successful statesman is applauded for his political achievements; the general is honored and banqueted when he leads his troops to victory; public thanks are given to the donor of a thousand pounds to a charity. Honor then the medical student who comes forward to the aid of suffer-

ing humanity, who ever answers his country's call and accompanies the soldier to the field of battle as cheerfully as he enters the palace of the millionaire; who does not hesitate to enter the plague-stricken district to save a human life, or it may be to perform successfully some skillful and delicate operation, knowing that his only pay may be 'God bless you, doctor, I knew you would be lucky.' He looks not at the external pomp of wealth believing as Oliver Wendell Holmes did when he said: If Sir Astley Cooper was ever called to let off the impure ichor from the bloated limbs of George IV, it was the king who was honored by the visit and not the surgeon. Again, he says: Unless you feel as you cross the threshold of the millionaire that your art is nobler than his palace the footman that let you in is your fitting companion and not his master. Again, to those who have in contemplation the study of medicine, we, having crossed its threshold and about to enter its active domain would kindly beseech you not to neglect this first grand preliminary qualification of a good literary and scientific education. Classics, mathematics, philosophy, &c., may have no direct bearing on the study of medicine; yet who will deny their influence in strengthening the mind and expanding the intellect and undoubtedly the man whose mind is thus cultured and developed is better able to diffuse his art to the benefit of the suffering and better able to ferret out the mysteries of life and death. When Lord Bacon wrote 'writing makes the exact man' he must surely have been thinking of medical men, for from them the scratch of a pencil, or the omission of it, on many prescriptions would be death to the patient. Foster then your society for mutual improvement and in the words of Dr. Bingham: Make the science of medicine your first love and lovingly array her in the mantle of literary excellence, bedeck her with the gems of culture, adorn her with the priceless diamonds wrested from the bosom of literature; and then, and not until then, will you have done justice to your heart's first love, your chosen science; and then, and not until then, will that science stand forth flashing with the peerless rubies of truth, and exalted upon a pedestal far above the petty tyranny of prejudice, will receive as homage the appreciation and admiration of all men.

To the citizens of Kingston we are very grateful for their many kindnesses and hospitality. Our minds received cheerful recreation from arduous toil in their friendly entertainments. To them we truly say:

"The saddest tale we have to tell
Is when we bid them all farewell."

To our college mates who have still to continue it is unnecessary for me to speak, we know each other and our feelings at parting are more easily imagined than described. If unanimity ever characterized a body of men it is characteristic of medical students. Here miserable minorities or boastful majorities are unknown. May the 'bundle of sticks' ever remain your motto, for while so united all hostile power is vain.