

and co-operation of both teachers and students of this Faculty in all measures connected with the interests of the University.

To all of you who are here for the first time, this occasion takes the place of an introduction and gives us an opportunity to congratulate you on your choice of the profession of medicine. Although not one in which wealth is often attained, yet you will find that its pursuit is attended by an ever increasing interest and enjoyment. Taxing, as it often will, your physical and mental qualities to the utmost, yet there is the corresponding reward in the constant satisfaction and pleasure of alleviating distress among your fellow-men.

You are further to be congratulated on entering on the study of medicine at this late period of the century when so many of the difficulties experienced by your predecessors have been smoothed away. I will not now enlarge on the great advances made in medical knowledge during the past quarter of a century, but if there is more to learn, I believe that the work is more systematised, that the facilities for learning are vastly improved, and that the change in methods of teaching by substituting the demonstration for the lecture render the task a pleasure rather than a labour. The only point you can regret is that you were not born a little later, when the advance in medical knowledge will compel a lengthening of the course to five or six years instead of the present four.

During the next few months you will doubtless hear much of heredity and environment in shaping the destinies of man. In the latter you will, I believe, find here much to stimulate your best energies, and it remains with you to take every possible advantage of the surroundings in which you are placed. The old tradition, of frittering away the first and third years on unworthy trivialities, a tradition which is not yet extinct in all medical schools, has long become relegated to ancient history as far as this college is concerned.

Hitherto your training has been chiefly in literary subjects, and your method of learning almost altogether from books. You are now called upon to acquire knowledge not only from books, but from the book of nature. You must learn to

“Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones.”

The faculty of observation must be brought into play, and one of the chief ends of your work here is to acquire this habit in association with your work. This quality is one which can be successfully cultivated by any one willing to devote the time and labour necessary for its acquisition. You will soon find that opportunities are given you to verify the statements made by your text-books, and just in propor-