

of ground belonging to Guy's Hospital. By his own intelligence, and steady hard work the son pushed his way, and to-day, as Sir James Paget, he is honored, not alone wherever the English language is spoken but wherever the influence of legitimate medicine is felt. It is true that it is not given to all to be Field Marshals, or Admirals, or Bishops, or Professors in Universities. In every sphere of life—in every profession—in every trade, there must ever be grades; but if you are ambitious, aim high and labour hard; if you apparently fail do not be discomfited, but try again. Ever remember that God helps those who help themselves. Remember also to succeed will require from you the most unceasing watchfulness; so that when the time to reap your reward arrives, you may be prepared to take advantage of it, for Shakespeare says, "there is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." If at last you find that you have reached the point beyond which you cannot pass, rest assured you are much the better off from the efforts which you have made. The difficulty of obtaining practice in the early years of professional life is not by any means confined to the medical profession. Our sister profession, the law, makes a like complaint, and, if some of the facts recorded of her greatest men be correct, with much justice. It is said of Blackstone, a name familiar to every law student, that during the first fourteen years of his professional career, he had but two briefs entrusted to him. His management of them, however, showed such care, that they formed the corner stone of that very great success to which he subsequently attained. Unlike the merchant or the mechanic, the professional man cannot advertise his claims to notice: for to do so would place him in direct opposition to that code of ethics which governs our profession throughout the civilized world. You must work patiently, and let me add hopefully, and if you do so I firmly believe you will in time have your reward. In your intercourse with your patients, you will find much that will try your patience and your temper. Guard them both well; keep a tight rein upon them, for sickness begets a snappishness of disposition, and very often an unreasonableness in the demands which will be made upon you. It will be your duty however, to study the whims and the caprices of your patients, no matter how unpalatable and irksome it often may be. Could I offer you no other reason, than as a means towards success, I would advise it; but surely out of your sympathising nature some will flow towards those whom an All-wise Providence has seen fit to afflict.

Into the sick room I beg of you to carry a cheerfulness of disposition, for, more perhaps than you will at first imagine, it will inspire confidence, and give to the patient a hopefulness in cases, even the most desperate. How much this can do in prolonging life, experience will soon teach you. In cases of an essentially chronic character, the value of a cheerful hope-inspiring physician is perhaps best seen. I know that the physician whose face ever lightens the darkness of a sick room can do a great deal to make sickness endurable.

Towards the fair sex, ever present a lofty, manly bearing. It would be folly in me to imagine that you have yet to learn to appreciate them; but, gentlemen, I mean no disparagement either to them or to you, when I say you have yet to learn their true value. It is in the sick chamber that woman brings into active play those wonderful attributes of gentleness which soothes the aching brow, and smoothes the pillow, when man's mortal frame is racked and tossed with pain. True indeed has Sir Walter Scott in his beautiful *Marmion* said:

"O Woman! in thy hours of ease,  
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,  
And variable as the shade  
By the light quivering aspen made;  
When pain and anguish wring the brow,  
A ministering angel thou!"

And now, gentlemen, what return may you anticipate from a firm adherence to the line of conduct I have marked out for you. I wish indeed that I could with truth say that you would always receive the gratitude of those whom you have benefited, but in truth I cannot, for gratitude is a commodity which I fear is somewhat scarce. It is indeed precious and highly to be prized when bestowed, but, as remarked lately by that eminent American Surgeon, Prof. Gross, "there is much less of it than is commonly imagined." Do not for a moment suppose that among your patients you will not meet with some who will always show a lively sense of your professional worth. But, on the other hand, be prepared to find services rendered by you, which no sordid coin can pay, treated with indifference. Want of success in treating diseases which are of necessity fatal, proving simply that you are not omnipotent, will often be the cause of much ingratitude and fault finding; those who act thus forgetting that your power is limited, and that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Do your duty manfully, hopefully, and leave the result in the hands of the All-wise disposer of events.

One point more, gentlemen, let me touch upon, and I shall have done. I have spoken of the nobility of