

to the left of us, for boldly we had worked, and well, many in that conflict fell, but not the present survivors.

The number that has received degrees to-day, entitling them to practise Medicine, although comparatively small, helps to make up the thousands that are annually trained to join the great army of medical men. We have just entered upon a new profession—a noble one, no doubt—but one which we are told is overcrowded. This we do not doubt, but I believe there is still room for earnest workers. We cannot wait for opportunities, but as young men we feel it imperative to *make* opportunities. There is still a wide field in the science of Medicine, the workers are many, but the higher we climb the ladder of scientific researches the fewer are the workers. Fortunately or unfortunately, we all *cannot* reach the same acme of success, but we all *can* be toilers in this field of interesting knowledge; and it is only by making strenuous efforts that we can hope to achieve anything like success. Medicine to-day is far different from what it was in the earlier ages; great advances have been made, particularly on the surgical side of the field. The advances are based principally on the introduction of *anæsthetics* and the practice of strict *antisepsis*. Armed with these two great agencies, the skillful surgeon of to-day can explore and remove with comparative impunity what his forefathers did not probably dream of. While the members of the profession on which we have just entered are to be congratulated on the progress that has been made, particularly in surgery and bacteriological researches, yet we are compelled to acknowledge that Medicine—on the basis on which it exists to-day—*i. e.*, the cure of disease, has not by any means proved a brilliant success, for with the exception of one or two diseases for which we possess almost specific remedies, we can in the majority of cases

do little more than alleviate symptoms and support the frame, until the disease has run its course. We believe that in the not far distant future, the practice of Medicine will be constituted on an altogether different basis, that the *prevention* of disease shall be the main object of the physician's study. At that time in our colleges, the subject of Hygiene, which now receives but a paltry three months course of lectures, will be the most important subject, and shall receive the greatest attention. In referring to that part of Hygiene called Dietetics, the ignorance of whose laws acts as the most fruitful cause of disease, and which now receives but scant attention in our colleges, *can* we not say that this subject is well worthy of as much attention as is now given to any subject in the curriculum?

Medicine demands for its successful practice not only a thorough knowledge of its science and art—which of course is a *sine quâ non*—but it requires a certain amount of judgment and forethought in dealing with the various classes of persons with whom the physician has to come in contact. Acquisition or neglect of this, although apparently secondary consideration, goes far in raising a young practitioner, or in keeping him within the pale of mediocrity. Therefore let us strive to acquire the power of reading the looks, words and actions of our fellows, so that we may interpret their inmost thoughts, for knowledge in this respect undoubtedly gives the practitioner immense power.

Within a few weeks of this, some of us will be on the other side of the Atlantic, to join in the great army of students at the large and well equipped medical schools and hospitals of Great Britain and the Continent—some to study special branches, but *not* to become, as it is now the tendency of many specialists, ignorant of the fact that through the *great* sympathetic diseases of many organs produce