

surround it with loopholes of escape; such conduct will destroy confidence in you, and is unworthy of honorable men.

Yet avoid haste in forming a diagnosis and prognosis; nature does not reveal her secrets to the hasty superficial observer; nor can any degree of knowledge enable one infallibly to foretell her intentions.

It will frequently be necessary in the interest of your patients to exercise a prudent reticence, when you suspect or recognise a grave or fatal malady. To tell a man who is nervous about his health, that he has an incurable affection, may be to quicken into activity a passive, stationary disease; and to take away hope by too frank an answer to an unwise and unthinking patient, may be to deprive one's self of a powerful adjuvant in the management of the case, and the patient of a solace to his suffering—and may be, to say the least, a great unkindness, if not a great cruelty. Endeavour to realize at the outset, that more than most other vocations, that of the physician involves the daily practice of self abnegation. When tired and wearied by the labors of the day, you will be frequently called out at night, to watch by the bedside of one, who perhaps by his own long self indulgence, has induced the horrors of delirium, or permitted her emotions so to overrule her will as to induce a paroxysm of hysteria. Or it may be your lot to be condemned by the prejudices of a jury, and the ignorance or malice of rivals, to pay damages to an ungrateful patient whose life you may have saved by removing his limb; and that too perhaps, without having had any expectation of remuneration for your anxious services.

In the discharge of your professional duties, you must necessarily become possessed of information respecting the characters, circumstances and history of your patients which, however flattering to them, they may not care to have spoken of to others. Indeed as the family physician, you will be often likewise regarded as the family friend and counsellor, and be perhaps consulted on matters of the greatest delicacy or importance. See to it, that all such information remains confined to your own bosom, and that the confidence imposed in you, be not destroyed either by interested advice or babbling gossip.

Cherish a high respect for the noble profession you have this day entered. It numbers in its ranks many of the foremost investigators of science—its professional curriculum covers a wider range than that of almost any other profession—its members are generally characterised by liberality of opinion, comprehensiveness of observation, sobriety of judgment and unostentatious devotion to their continuous labours—and the value and sacredness of its object, can be estimated only by the value of human life, the sacredness of human suffering. Endeavour to prove yourselves worthy members