

Country practice offers no *asylum ignorantium*. The doctor there goes right to the front to be known and read of all men, and what is more important, of all women. The people among whom he dwells belong to the great middle class, intelligent people, capable of forming correct judgments. Before such judges he stands, and he can shirk no responsibility since sharp eyes follow him everywhere, observing and discerning what manner of man he is. Trained by the life he leads, he gains self-reliance, presence of mind, fertility of resource and sagacity, and thus becomes a self-contained man, capable, skilful, and safe. To him a consultation is always something like a confession of failure and a downfall of pride. To this class belonged Jenner and Sims, McDowell and Robert Koch, with countless others—grand men who saw the distant tops of thought which men of common stature never see. He is charged with being at times a "routinist" and a one-idea, or a one-sided man. If he has but one idea, it is his own, and he is that much ahead of quite a few other people. Remember also that one-sided men make our only aggressive leaders. Once more, to quote from the Hoosier poet,

"And it was given us to see beneath his rustic rind  
A native force and mastery of such inspiring kind  
That half unconsciously we made obeisance."

He may give less attention than his city brother to dress—may even at times be as unkempt as a yearling colt with the run of the burr pasture, but by intuition, that is, by the working of the unconscious mind, he grasps the essential facts that success in gaining and holding practice is less a matter of therapeutics than of tact; that the patient has a right to his whole-hearted attention, and that whenever it is at all possible, he must thoroughly understand the case and take a hopeful view of it.

Such the work. Now, what of its rewards? In ten years of hard work a very large sum can be accumulated—on one's ledger. What shall it profit a man if he has an account against every man in the country and cannot collect a cent? For your encouragement, let me tell you that from 75 to 90 per cent. of money earned in the country is good, or will be some day—after threshing, perhaps, or in the spring. While with health a modest competency is assured, there is absolute security from any sudden attack of affluence.

But there are rewards which come in daily and are not to be expressed with the dollar sign before them.

"A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;  
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;  
Thou shalt be helped by every sense of service which thou renderest."