

may therefore reasonably expect from the studies you have gone through and the labours of your prospective practice, are, a fair competency, the satisfaction derived from a sense of the utility of your services, the gratitude of your patients and the respect of the public.

To attain these objects, there are certain fundamental rules of conduct necessary for your self regulation, and due to the public and to the profession.

As regards the first of these—your conduct should be such as is calculated to preserve your own health and command the respect of your fellow men. You whose vocation it is to direct others in the preservation of their health and in the correction of their bodily derangements, are expected to know how to maintain your own. Familiar as you are with those hygienic laws by the observance of which health and life are maintained, nevertheless, I think it right to warn you as young practitioners against the ruinous habit which too many members of our profession acquire, of indulging in alcoholic beverages which is alike injurious to their health and professional prospects. The man who is afflicted with this infirmity can never be relied upon as a medical practitioner, and his best friends will soon cease to employ him, without his being apparently aware of the cause—often attributing their alienation to other reasons. To no class of men is bodily vigour and mental soundness more necessary than to those of our profession—subject as they are to be called upon at all hours for professional assistance in cases the most intricate and dangerous. Therefore shun the cup that inebriates—that blurs the eye and palsies the hand—destroys the intellectual and perverts the moral faculties.

Another point is this. To no class of men is integrity of conduct, truthfulness, dignity and suavity of manner more necessary. A great authority and a good man, Dr. Stokes of Dublin, has lately said in his address on medicine, delivered at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Leamington, in August last, "That the cause of medicine taken in its broadest sense,—whether as to its social, political, or scientific relations, is to be advanced more by the cultivation of the minds, the morals and the manners of those who are engaged in it, than by all other influences whatsoever." Entirely coinciding with the idea embodied in these great and good words, I commend them to your consideration and practical adoption as a sure way of advancing the profession at large and your individual success.

Before entering on the active duties of the profession, those of you who can afford to do so, should follow the example of the father of medicine, who, after studying at the Asclepion of Cos, travelled into other