

ago, sitting for the first time on these benches, eager for knowledge and longing for distinction, my loftiest ambition would not have dared aspire so high as to the position I am this moment occupying, and my first duty to-day is the pleasant one of thanking this distinguished faculty for having singled me out from among far worthier men for this high, I might say this supreme, compliment.

I have said that I first sat on these benches a third of a century ago. That is a long time, but it is not long enough to dim in the slightest degree my memory of the men who then taught in these lecture rooms, nor to lessen my affection and reverence for them. They have gone to their reward, and my fellow-students are rapidly, year by year, following them. Have patience with me a moment while I, just for the pleasure the reminiscence gives me, speak of those old days and of those well-beloved teachers.

When I first came here to study, away back in the fifties, Dr. Holmes was Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Practice of Medicine. No simpler-hearted or more lovable man ever lectured in these halls. I attended a course of his lectures before he passed away—as he did while I was here—and have the notes of these lectures still. Scientific medicine has left far behind it since then his methods of diagnosis and rules of treatment, but I doubt much whether the best modern physician is more welcome at the bedside or does more good to his patients. The truth is that though we have since then created whole sciences, such as microscopy, bacteriology and gynæcology, doubled and trebled many others, such as psychiatry and pathology, learned to diagnose numerous diseases then unrecognized, invented instruments without number and introduced “new remedies” past computation, yet we have not, to adopt Tennyson’s language,

“ Gained a real height,
Nor are we nearer to the light
Because the scale is infinite.”

For centuries which are yet in the gravid womb of futurity, we shall advance and advance and advance as we have done in those old centuries which are dead, but we shall never get nearer absolute knowledge than we have been from the beginning and are now. All human history that has been and