

success, but distinction. He will gain the approbation of the enlightened and wise, and what is still better, the satisfaction of his own conscience.

The tree of knowledge spreads forth its numerous branches in various forms, and as the human mind is not constituted alike in any two individuals, different opinions cannot fail to be entertained, as to what mode of study is best adapted for one destined for our profession; but judging from the lives of the most eminent men who have ever lived to grace our art, I consider that the primary mode of acquiring a sound and valuable medical knowledge, is to examine, as far as opportunity will permit, into the great book of nature, and there learn what she so mysteriously teaches. This, gentlemen, is the true spirit in which you must pursue your investigations; this alone is the means by which the territory of human knowledge can be explored, and although every student should, to use the words of the immortal Newton, but "resemble a child gathering shells upon the sea shore, with the vast ocean of undiscovered truth beyond it," yet it is only by industry that our researches will be rendered permanent and our learning useful.

As a noble instance of the truth of what I have advanced, I would here recall to your recollection the imperishable name of "John Hunter." By his own persevering efforts, did this great man raise himself from the lowest obscurity to a reputation wide as the world itself, and certain to last as long as the age in which he flourished shall be remembered by posterity. He studied the great book of nature, and hence proceeded both the patience with which he traced its characters and the rich and plentiful discoveries with which the search rewarded him.

I would next mention that politeness and good manners are an invaluable acquisition to the medical student. They commend him at once to the special care of his instructors, and smooth his rugged path in many ways. The Roman maxim, "*Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes emollit mores nec sinit esse ferus*," is as true now as in times past, for without this part of his education having been attended to, the student knows nothing of sentiment, and is usually governed by two predominant and paramount objects, the gratification of his passions and the appropriation to himself of every thing to which he may take a fancy, without the least consideration for the feelings of others.

But with these studies must be united a large acquaintance with those divine truths, which are the fountain of all human contemplation. It must never be forgotten, says Lord Bacon, in any system

of education, that religion is the cementing bond and preserving principle of civil society, and the source of all good and all comfort.

I would also advise you to become systematic in your habits, and you will be preserved from that besetting sin, procrastination, which is truly named the thief of time. Be sure that time misspent cannot be recovered, and that opportunities of acquiring acknowledge neglected will entail upon you the loss of health, comfort and much self-esteem to redeem them.

Gentlemen, you have entered upon the most interesting of all studies, the study of man. What then is man, this being who is the subject of all our medical investigations? Of what is he composed? What is he to himself? How is he related to other beings and objects around him, animate and inanimate, and how are they related to him? How is he constructed? What are the natures and what are the influences of his passions and emotions? What are his physical, moral and intellectual faculties? What are the destinations of his existence on this globe? How is he capacitated to fulfil them? What are his resources when struggling with impediments from affliction? These questions are all within the embrace of medical science, and afford a field of philosophical enquiry, vast in extent, minute in detail and infinite in importance. Man, it is to be considered, is a material, a living, rational, a mortal, an immortal and an accountable being. What therefore is this power that since the creation and under obedience to the laws then enacted, generates, increases, adjusts, completes, regulates and repairs thus our bodily machine? What is this power which possesses that controlling influence over ordinary affinities; which preserves and directs all its parts to their destined uses; implants in them an innate repugnance to such things as may injure or impede them, and makes them shrink from those by which their integrity and co-existence may be endangered or destroyed. This is a power which mocks all human invention; it is characteristic of the Divine Architect.

I have endeavored to impress upon your minds the importance and the difficulties of acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of your profession; the dangers which are to be avoided, the greatest of which is the temptation of drink, for it includes all the rest; and the certain success which await sober, methodical, upright, industrious and gentlemanly conduct. We wish you a hearty God's-speed, and let me assure you as one who had an opportunity of judging, that the Medical School of Bishop's College