

acquisition of professional experience, and for the manifestation of that mercy so eloquently portrayed by the Bard of Avon, and peculiarly applicable to the position of the medical student—

“It is twice bless'd ;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

Again, the study of medicine possesses great charms for the lover of nature. No employment can prove more congenial to the mind fitted for the admiration of God's works than the application of the truths derived from enquiry into Nature's mysteries to the well-being of the highest in the scale of creation.

Many of the greatest discoveries made in biological science have resulted from the labours of those members of the profession who have not been the most actively engaged in medical practice, but have chosen rather a continuance of the student's life, thus sacrificing every prospect of wealth or affluence in order to gratify their intense love for a knowledge of the wonders of nature.

But the profession of medicine is not without its worldly advantage and that of a high order—the universal demand for the services of the physician and surgeon is such that, place him where you will, his profession clothes him as with an ægis, ever protects him, ever supports him.

Having thus briefly laid before you the difficulties and the advantages of the medical profession I proceed to speak of the requirements necessary for those who embark in the study of the healing art; and first of all must be placed the desire for knowledge, for its own sake, independently of the honour and emolument to spring from its possession.

The profession of your choice demands for its successful pursuit the utmost culture of all the mental power which the largest munificence may have bestowed. Ignorance on the part of the practitioner is criminal and may never be pleaded as an excuse for malpractice. The lives of the most valued, of the highest as of the lowest in worldly station, of the aged and of the young, of the mother and of the offspring are henceforth to be confided to your professional skill. You may not excuse yourselves

with the trite saying, “I did as well as I could,” it must be, “I did as well as could be done.” No second-rate order of attainment can be tolerated in the practitioner of medicine; when employed ever remember that you are so employed because you are thought to possess all the professional qualifications attainable by human being.

The morals of the physician are scarcely second in importance to the knowledge he may bring to bear upon his profession; the medical practitioner should be a gentleman in the widest sense of the term.

The truly scientific practice of medicine may be said to have had its beginning in the latter part of the 17th century, for prior to the discovery of the circulation of the blood, no basis existed upon which to build a knowledge of physiology and through it the practice of medicine and surgery. Before this time the dicta of the astrologer and the sorcerer were accepted as the chief guides to a restoration to health when departed from.

Wm. Harvey was born at Folkestone, in England, and after graduating at the University of Cambridge went to Padua and prosecuted his anatomical studies under the direction of Fabricius d'Acquapendente; he returned to England when 24 years of age, and shortly afterwards received the appointment of Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons. When about 40 years of age, in 1616-1619, he made public his great discovery of the circulation of the blood. The announcement was received with unsparing ridicule, and for more than twenty years provoked unrelenting persecution. The inventive spirit with which nature had endowed Harvey was not wanting to many of those who before him had engaged in the same path, but that which he possessed in a higher degree, and which enabled him to attain the end, of which his predecessors had, at the most, been able only to guess the existence, is that lucid comprehension, that prompt and sound judgment, that exquisite good sense which always guided him in the appreciation of facts, in the deduction of consequences, and in the selection of proofs which he invoked to set forth his teachings. Harvey was one of