

and heal the wounded, to prolong life; and the happiest moments of his existence, his hours of triumph, are the victories won at death's door. Yes, a physician's life is really noble and great!

It is here, in this grand university, that you have flocked to prepare yourselves, by lengthy and patient studies, for the career you will be called upon to enter in the near future, that state of life made up of work and self-denial.

Your professors will direct you in the right path; they will teach you the precepts you must know; they will unfold the vast extent of medical science, the more entrancing, the more we fathom it. No doubt you will love the science of medicine, which makes the delight of its faithful followers, and which will open up to you the fields of the unknown. You will study it passionately, in all its branches, thus learning to acquaint yourselves with life and to combat the causes of death.

Of all the branches of medicine, there is one upon which I would like to dwell more particularly to-day, for it will be of constant use throughout your medical career; I am alluding to hygiene. I will endeavour to demonstrate that without hygiene, a physician is unable to fulfill his mission towards society. Hygiene has become a positive science, giving accurate and constant results. This, to a great extent, has been brought about by the progress and achievements of Pasteurian medicine. Hence, the great help it affords the physician in his endeavours to prolong the life of his patients, either by restoring health, when impaired, or still better, preventing disease from endangering it.

Consider for a moment hygiene and the wide field it covers. By alimentation, calisthenics and work, hygiene permits the development of strength and the invigorating of health. By proper diet and well layed down rules for the care of the sick, hygiene enables us to carry them safely through prolonged and debilitating diseases. Moreover, by establishing the rules of prophylaxis, it has, to use Dr. Brouardel's happy expression, rendered contagious diseases *preventable*, and thus affords the best means of protecting health. It may be said that hygiene has lessened the mortality rate throughout the whole world, and a higher compliment cannot be paid to our profession.

In order to fulfill his duties efficiently, the physician must be a firm believer in hygiene. Not only has he to oversee the general hygiene of families, in order to develop therein health and strength, not only has he to adopt special hygiene to each case, but if he does not want to lose his patient, but he has, moreover, in dealing with contagious diseases, to protect public health; this is not the least important of his duties, for according to the well known axiom "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."