

sketching a faint, and necessarily imperfect, outline of some of the fruitful labors of recent workers, and of the glorious record of our art. I am desirous of strengthening within you that spirit of laudable and rational enthusiasm for your profession which I am sure you all possess, by indicating by inference, the vast field which now stretches before you for the exercise of your faculties of observation and research. We have as yet but crossed the confines of a very partially explored region, but we have seen sufficient of its riches to stimulate us to exertion and to encourage us to hope that, by patient industry and endeavor, you may be able in your day and generation to add to the general stock of knowledge, and aid in handing down to your successors, improved and enriched, the heritage with which you have been entrusted by those who have gone before.

No one of average ability in active practice is now so situated as to be unable to contribute something, and it is astonishing to note how the careful record of what may at first sight appear to be a comparatively trifling observation, or the report of an uncommon case, has furnished to another observer the very item wanting or the key to the completion of a valuable discovery. But let me beg of you to record your observations and express your opinions in plain, concise language.

If you are desirous of being read, avoid verbiage and diffuseness. Be brief, yet thorough, and remember that brevity and thoroughness are by no means incompatible with each other, or with clearness of expression and ease and purity of diction. Nothing can be more exasperating to the diligent student than the wordiness, repetition and plagiarism of some of the medical writers of the present day. Utility and perspicuity are more or less sacrificed to a quasi-elegance of style, and the weary reader is obliged to wade through pages of so-called fine writing in order to become acquainted with the author's views which, after all, might have been better expressed in a few pithy sentences.

In the few words which I have spoken to you to-day I have striven to bear in mind that I am not addressing school-boys, but men who have gone through a stern ordeal of preparation for the battle of life, and have, upon examination, not been found wanting.

I have very little to say about your duties to your patients and to brother practitioners—they

should be sufficiently obvious to all cultivated men. As regards your patients there is but one point upon which I shall say a word—the necessity of keeping inviolate, in so far as the law and your own conscience permit, the disclosures necessarily made to you in the exercise of your calling. They are sometimes of a very delicate nature, involving reputation and happiness, and they should be held sacred—even at a risk, which not infrequently happens, to your own reputation. The gossiping doctor is a plague to all with whom he is brought into association.

The duties which you owe to your brethren are those which all members of any learned, honorable and responsible calling should observe, to encourage the weak and faltering, to defend those unjustly attacked, to differ, when just cause for difference arises, in a courteous, manly and straightforward manner, and to regard with the eyes of charity the failings and shortcomings of the erring ones.

"This above all—To thine own self be true;  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Gentlemen, you have to-day become members of this University, and it is expected of you, and I have every reason to believe that our expectation will be realized, that you will loyally guard its reputation and interests, and that no act or speech of yours will ever tend to sully the fair name of your Alma Mater.

Your brother graduates are scattered over this continent and even beyond it, and, so far, we have every reason to be proud of the position they occupy. On the other hand, the Faculty, equally with the graduates, has its duty to perform in the preservation of the dignity and usefulness of our school; and no outside clamor or pressure of competition of a doubtful character, shall force it to lower its standard of education or relax its wholesome system of discipline.

I need scarcely say in conclusion, Gentlemen, that its members will always take a warm interest in your welfare, and regard with pride and gratification your advancement and well-being, and in their behalf and for myself I most cordially wish you God-speed and a happy and prosperous career.