

"Like pilgrims on the hills of life
We cross each other and are gone."

Possibly we shall see little of each other in the future; let us hope that we will all have the kindest recollections each of the other.

To-day you have received from the President, in the diploma which certifies your legal right to practise your profession, the first-fruits of reward for many weary days and nights of toil. You have to-night been admitted into the ranks of an honorable profession. Allow me to remind you that to your keeping that honor has to-day been committed. We send you forth to your life's work with a confidence that you will steadfastly maintain that honor. May we never have occasion to regret that even as regards one of you that confidence was misplaced.

I am reminded that this very day most of you have been writing, side by side with the students of the Medical Faculty, for the honors of our Provincial University. I desire to impress upon you that this University recognition of dentistry as a liberal profession, and the ranking of its graduates in this department with its graduates in other departments, lays upon the members of the dental profession, and especially upon those who have received a University Degree, an additional obligation to guard well its honor and integrity.

The life of a student, while not by any means free from cares and anxieties arising from various sources, is nevertheless full of hope and pleasant expectation. For you these days are over, and you are entering upon the more serious work of life. The months, it may be the years, which immediately follow entrance upon professional life are, not unfrequently, in many respects the darkest, the most trying, the most discouraging, the most dangerous of a man's whole career. Reasonable expectations are not promptly realized, visions of success fade away, unexpected difficulties are projected into the path. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." This weary, almost fruitless waiting is what "tries men's souls" and the metal of which men are made. Upon this stage you are now entering. Happy for you if it be short, still happier for you if that trial comes not upon you. It is wise, however, for you to enter upon it realizing to the full what may possibly be in store for you, and be prepared to meet it manfully.