

them as I am, but will only tell you it is necessary, if you would "hold your own," to keep up with the ever changing and generally improving aspect of the science. A few years of neglect throws one fearfully behind hand, and in recurring to the subject we find ourselves a stranger in the field formerly well understood. This is the case, particularly in those parts of medicine not immediately practical—as in chemistry and physiology.

Set apart, therefore, a portion of your time for self-culture; for a scholar can no longer repose upon his academical laurels, and each one should make it the object of his life to add something to his medical knowledge.

Pursue with ardour and constancy every discovery after truth. The basis on which rests the glory of the medical profession is the sterling truths of its observations. Never employ your talents in aggrandizing visionary hypothesis, as truth is alone abiding. It is not merely the *duty* of every medical man, but it is his greatest glory and privilege to declare it. Be systematic, patient and attentive and clear, in all your statements. Be affable, yet dignified.

So much as to your professional studies. Now a few words on your duties to the public:

A medical man is emphatically a public man, and should be a man of the people. His aim should be to recommend himself to all parties, to make himself useful to all, and not by active partisanship make himself objectionable to any part of the community. He should only be known as the philanthropist and patriot in the broadest sense of the terms—devoted to the common weal and good of his patients. There is one duty you owe to society, which you should not neglect, and that is to disseminate, as widely as possible, a knowledge of the laws of Hygiene—a knowledge of the laws and conditions of health. To you, especially, will the community look to inform and enlighten it in relation to the best means of preserving health, of preventing the spread of contagious and infectious diseases, the influence of trades and occupations, the effects of different sorts of food, of dress and amusements, the nature, cause and cure of those diseases which attack the lower animals, and vegetable as well as animal life, the influence of soil and climate and season, of geological formations and geographical localities, the question of quarantine, the best mode of warming and ventilating houses, the establishment and regulation of schools and seminaries of learning. You will be called upon to instruct judges and lawyers and courts of law in relation to many important questions connected with hygiene, medicine and surgery, fractures, dislocations and poisons, and your opinions will, if well sustained, be decisive in turning the scale and shaping the verdict