

his offspring. Unaided by any other influence, the issue must be a miserable failure. No young man will acquit himself creditably in any calling into which he has not engaged "*con amore*." Unless he has a preference himself, no father's constraint, nor mother's persuasion, will deprive his studies of a toilsome character. Learning to an extent may be acquired against his will, but, shallow or indifferent as at best it must be, it will make no lasting impression on his memory. In after years should circumstances,—doubtful though the opportunity must be—present him with the occasion of entering upon practice, he finds no satisfaction in its engagements nor pleasure in his duties. He retires from the contest disturbed and discontented; experiencing, with deep bitterness, the overwhelming conviction, that he is in a pursuit for which he was never fitted.

Again, it is no effort of the imagination to say there may be those who, having entered the threshold of medicine, governed by different reasons, continue with perseverance therein and feel no other excitant to their attendance upon lectures or closet studies than the solitary ambition of a successful examination. This dreaded ordeal has early begun to seize their apprehensions, its tests are magnified because the creations of fancy are uncorrected by a final attestation, and it soon gains the entire exertions of the mental abilities in its behalf. It is not to be denied that such an object is laudable,—but as, with the motive in the antecedent instance, it is praiseworthy only to a certain extent, like it, approval can only be extended by knowing the propriety of concomitant conditions and, here as there, the error is one of engrossment. To one in such a case, we say he may, he probably will succeed. His aim will be attained as far as appearances go, but there will be no soundness nor sterlingness in him. His impelling motive has called forth learning, for the most part, of minute details and descriptive lessons which he will find have, unaided, made him only scientific;—the acquisition was a work of necessity, and the burdens it has reaped will, moreover, unless preserved by force, separate spontaneously; in after life, the only incitement to knowledge will be removed, and further progress may most likely be unsought, uncared for, and untried; while retrocession into the dark mists of uncertainty or the unenviable regions of ignorance will, naturally, be facile in the extreme. No student who is thus actuated will be deeply read. His books are found to be few and the most popular of the common class called manuals, their leading claim to purchase is concentration—they are compact, brief, and to his purpose. A single one upon each department suffices, serving as the embodiment of an entire medical library. But all the researches and reflections of the great