

gratulated upon having learned one of the great lessons of life—how little he knows—how much he has to learn.

Natural aptitude for his profession scarcely admits of a definition. It includes so much that we will not attempt to refer to more than a few of the more salient qualifications. The power to observe, even to the minutest details, the patient's appearance, disposition, surroundings; facility in acquiring evidence of disease and the ability to discern what is valuable and to reject all that is worthless; a ready sympathy with his patient's sufferings, a sympathy, however, controlled by reason—a sympathy which gains the patient's confidence, but does not lead him from his efforts to detect the true nature of the disease from which his patient is suffering; self-confidence, not conceit, but a confidence in his own knowledge and skill, which not only enables him to set about his work with a determination to be successful, but which at the same time communicates to the patient a belief that his doctor knows what he is about, and that he is not groping in the dark; the manner of a gentleman under all circumstances; the refined are repelled by one whose conduct does not come up to this standard and their confidence withheld, and the uncouth instinctively feel that a gentleman is to be trusted; secrecy as to any confidences which his patients repose in him. These are some of the more salient qualifications which we would include under the heading of natural aptitude, and which have so much to do with a physician's success. If those who are now receiving their degrees have the necessary knowledge and these special characteristics they are indeed to be congratulated.

The spirit which, in our opinion, should animate every practitioner is a desire to do the greatest good in his power to all who come under his care. In order that he may succeed in his aim he must be continually striving to acquire fresh knowledge, and he must ever be more and more cultivating and developing those qualities which always characterize the true physician. By his profession, it is true, he has to earn his living. This he will the more readily succeed in doing the more he devotes himself to the acquisition of knowledge and the cultivation of the special qualification of a true physician. He must be in love with his work, not for the emoluments to be gained, but for the work itself. If the new graduates are animated by this spirit, if they