

There are few, then, better equipped than you for the journey of life, and let us hope that you will make good use of the splendid advantages you have had, scoring many victories against injury and disease and adding fresh renown to your Alma Mater. Your success will, however, depend very much on the manner in which you apply the knowledge which you have gained here.

Remember, you are now to be thrown on your own resources. Hitherto the practical work in which you have been engaged, in the wards of the hospital, has been well supervised by some person responsible for the well-being of the cases allotted to your charge. Hitherto it made no material difference to the patient whether your diagnosis of his disease was correct or not; and in your capacity of dresser it mattered little, beyond the temporary inconvenience, if your splint pressed unduly on prominent parts or your bandage interfered with the circulation and threatened the integrity of a limb. Hitherto you have been able to leave your patients and return to your respective apartments with a light heart, knowing that your work would be well supervised and the defects therein corrected. Now, however, things are going to be vastly different with you. The tow-rope has been cut and you are rapidly floating off from the old ship, whose helmsmen have been doing the steering for you. You must now be prepared "to paddle your own canoe." It will make all the difference after this, both to your patient and yourself, whether your diagnosis and treatment be correct or not. It will not do now to overlook a pneumonia, mistake the eruption of small-pox for measles or to treat a broken bone as an ordinary sprain. Your dressings will no longer be subjected to criticism and correction, and if, through any mismanagement, your patient's life or limb is imperilled, you may have no one now to share the responsibilities with you.

I would advise you, therefore, constantly to hold a review of the knowledge you have acquired, adding fresh facts as Medicine progresses. Store up for future use the practical hints given you from time to time at the bedside. Always have the feeling that you are ready for any emergency, no matter how