

“be confidently expected, that one result will be the elevation of the duties of an Officer in State Medicine to that of a recognised profession, as in several special instances it has already become. At present it is not uncommon for a young man to be charged with wasting his powers if he devotes himself to improve the public health. Hereafter, charge of the public health must be made as much a matter of honourable ambition in the body politic, and must become as much an object of special education and training, as the business of any other recognised branch of the civil service. The Government will have to define the duties to be discharged by Public Health Officers or other Officers of Public Medicine, and the General Council of Medical Education will be able to direct the education of those who aspire to the performance of the duties so defined.”

These are but a few of the points in which the medical student must keep himself abreast of the scientific tendencies of the age. If he fails to do so, an educated public opinion will detect his deficiencies and consign him to merited contempt. His own conscience will condemn him, as one who has failed to improve the opportunities presented to him, and who has presumed to enter into the great battle with disease and death without arming himself fitly for the contest. God, who is the author of all that our science investigates, and who regards all the works of his hands, will condemn him, as one who has failed in the highest of duties, that which he owes in love as well as professional skill to his brother man. The medical student should enter on his work with the firm resolve to improve to the utmost his own powers and the opportunities given him; looking in this for the approval of a good conscience and for the highest professional success. That it may be so with every medical student, is the wish and prayer of every good man; as it is of all the members of this Faculty, and of all connected with this University.

It is indeed essential to the character and standing of the University itself, that this high estimate of the connection of professional training with science should be maintained; for, apart from the tendency of College training to elevate the professions from the standing of mere empirical arts to be learned by an apprenticeship, to that of scientific studies, the connection of professional schools with the University would only lower the latter without elevating the former. On this the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, in the close of his lecture above referred to, thus eloquently insists:

“Yet we may ask, why the Professions should be welcomed by the University? Why this union should be desired by them? The answer is plain. Not through the guidance of the people by a few superior minds, not through the laying down rules of fashion by concurrence, not