

Gentlemen, you leave us to-day well abreast of the knowledge of your time. But allow me to remind you that only the fleet runner can fully keep up in the race. Industry well directed, a mind free from prejudice, ever ready to entertain, though not necessarily to subscribe to, every new thing, will keep you in the safe path of progress. And begin at once this career. Never cease to be students of books, and, above all, of the book of Nature, ever open, yet sometimes hard to read. You will, of course, encourage all forms of learning and especially all departments of science, for no one can tell whence the next great advance may come. The limits set to an address of this kind prevents me referring to many matters of great importance in the details of your career as practitioners; but I think you must at some time during your student life have either heard or read advice on many of these subjects.

In this unresting age old things seem to be passing away and all things becoming new. Every man is a unit-force in the civilization of which he forms a part. He either retards or accelerates the car of progress. In addition to the physician's obligations as a preventer of disease by direct consultation with individuals and families, he owes a great duty to that portion of the human race that, from a multitude of causes, is unable to think out and work out its own salvation. What, then, is the duty of the profession to the great ignorant, degraded, comparatively helpless, mass of our fellows. According to some we are each to look to himself; each develop himself; and these people find a refuge for their selfishness under some ill-understood quotation, such as "The survival of the fittest." They would have us believe that their position is supported by the now no longer despised doctrines of evolution. Such views may harmonize with their "evolution," but not with that of the noble Darwin! Survival under a given environment is a mark of the fittest. But who make the environment for these unfortunates? In great part their fellow-men; and unless they make it as good as their light and opportunities permit they are unjust to their less fortunate brethren.

With all kinds of resource, whether of wealth, talent, learning