

father of the patient, they gave the following guarded prognosis: "We do not say that your daughter may not die for all this; but you will at least have the satisfaction of having done something, and the consolation of knowing that she died according to rule. It is better to die according to rule than to recover in violation of it."

At this juncture many important discoveries were made, especially in physics and chemistry. Harvey gave the world correct ideas respecting the circulation of the blood. It may be of interest to you to learn that the table over which he worked and demonstrated his wonderful discovery is now the property of this University, having been presented by Dr. Clarke, of Toronto. The old school men fought the new idea with considerable vigor for many years, but gradually the truth prevailed, and in due course of time a proper foundation was laid for what we now call modern scientific medicine.

Under the new régime our reverence for the so-called authorities is very weak, our respect for tradition is almost annihilated. Dr. Conklin, in his recent presidential address to the Ohio State Medical Society, well described our present position when he said: "Modern medicine acknowledges no intellectual restraint. Every new hypothesis is at once submitted to fair but rigid laboratory and clinical tests, and by the result of these must it stand or fall."

I am addressing students who have chosen the profession of medicine as their life work. I hope you have done so after careful consideration and due appreciation of the difficulties you will have to surmount, and the responsibilities you will have to assume. Modern achievements and discoveries have made the field you will have to traverse a very broad one; but I believe that faithful, honest work will enable you to succeed. Our University has placed at your disposal grand opportunities, and I hope that you will make the most of them. The members of our Faculty are your friends, and will endeavor to give you all the assistance possible.

Our profession has often been called a noble one. I sometimes think the expression is to a certain extent misleading, and have more than once expressed my opinions in that direction. From some points of view, there is nothing essentially noble about

it. I regret to say that we have in our ranks many who would cast huge blots on any standard of nobility we might assume. Without going back so far as the dark ages, I may say that I have seen even medical students who have shown by their actions that they are little, if any, above the level of the worst hoodlums who sometimes infest our streets. I am making no personal allusions, however; I know of no such individuals in the medical colleges in this city; I have recognized, with the greatest pleasure, in recent years, that our students fully appreciate the condition of things in medical matters, and show by their actions a determination to do credit to themselves, their university, and the profession they have chosen.

While I have refused to adopt the idea that there is any essential nobility in our profession, I have no desire to cast any slurs upon it. As a matter of fact, I place it second to none in the world; but I would like to impress upon you the fact that it will be exactly what we are pleased to make it. You as students will be judged by your actions. This great student-city is proud of the position she occupies as the educational metropolis of Canada. Her citizens will give you a cordial welcome and rejoice in your success. Let it be your aim to be worthy of such a welcome and such good wishes for your well-being; may you never do an act which will bring the blush of shame to those who desire to be your friends.

In conclusion, I have simply this to say: Our profession is a great and noble one in the sense that it gives us grand opportunities for good work in the interests of suffering humanity. Our responsibilities are many; at the same time our opportunities are great; and if we, one and all, as students and practitioners, do our work honestly and conscientiously, having regard to our duties to God and man, we will make our profession good, great, and noble, in the best sense of the words.

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COCAINE is chemically incompatible with the salts of mercury. If a trace of cocaine hydrochlorate be mixed by means of a dry glass rod with a very minute quantity of calomel, and the mixture be breathed upon, the moisture that condenses is sufficient to cause it to blacken immediately.—*Medical Chronicle*.