

elevate and refine its followers—to make them ensamples of good to all men—so much as that to which you have devoted yourselves, and indeed it is not going too far to say that in this respect it is incomparably superior to most other professions. Your prospects of material success depend as a matter of course very much upon the exercise of qualities, which are essential to success in any and every walk of life. Integrity, industry, energy, and temperance in all things, must form part at least of the basis on which to build a lasting superstructure. Without these we have too often seen the most brilliant talents prove useless and unproductive, but possessing these qualities, and with such a knowledge of the principles of your profession as you undoubtedly have, you may confidently expect to achieve a position alike honourable to yourselves and useful to society.

That much of your prosperity, and still more of your comfort, will depend upon the adoption of business-like and methodical habits at the outset of your career, is a statement so obviously true, that it must needs meet your approval. Yet unfortunately, though all admit its truth, we are obliged to admit that comparatively few of us are as methodical as we ought to be, and a very large minority, to speak mildly, appears to get along in a “happy go lucky” sort of way, ignoring method and business habits altogether.

The medical man labours under rather exceptional difficulties in this respect, since he is liable to long and frequent interruptions at all times and seasons. He must constantly be prepared to forego his sleep, his meals, his business, study or pleasure, at the call of suffering, and must exercise the most watchful care to avoid falling into slovenly and unsystematic habits; to say nothing of the very injurious effects which may in consequence, and indeed notwithstanding all care, often do result to his health, and thus impair his usefulness, mar his fortunes, and even shorten his days—the absence of system or method often leads him to neglect or hastily and discredibly perform collateral but less urgent duties. For example—his accounts are badly kept, correspondence deferred, study neglected, often alas entirely discontinued, and what is of almost equal importance, his notes of cases are if taken at all; either recorded so imperfectly, or preserved in so slovenly a manner, as to render them practically useless for future reference, and thus the experience and observations of a lifetime, often valuable in themselves, or rich in suggestions, become all but fruitless of result either to himself or others. Take careful notes of all the cases which come under your care from the very first—regard this as a duty, and not merely as a matter of taste or inclination—