

“ morning dew—the pneumonia and spinal meningitis that early recognition and prompt specific lead in a few days to vigorous health, are all recounted, with flippant unconcern, in drawing-room and social circle, in the highway, in the mart. These are not the manufacture of the people, for the terms are foreign to domestic culture. It were refined cruelty to charge upon the doctor such consummate ignorance ; better far, to credit him with the knavery that can command untruth to advance his interests or fortune.”

There is one thing that no school can teach, no professor impart—a thing that time alone can give you. As time alone can mellow and impart a special flavor to the juice of the grape which no art can imitate, so only lapse of years can give to the physician that experience without which he is yet crude and untried. But why not avail of the experience of all those who have gone before ? That cannot altogether be done. It has been very truly said that “ neither nations nor individuals profit much by the experience of other nations and other individuals.” And it is the same with the physician. Each must go through his experience for himself, “ learning through suffering, succeeding through blundering, attaining to the calmness of wisdom through the pains of disappointment.” But there are eyes and no eyes. Some men of half a century’s practice are as devoid of experience, in the true sense of the word, as the beginner of yesterday : because, seeing, they see not. We hope that your training here has been such that you have acquired the gift of observation, and the habit of thinking upon what you have seen. If so, your success is sure.

Do you really know the nature of the life upon which you now are fairly launched ? Theoretically, you do ; practically, you will. No one will say that it is a life of ease, and as certainly it cannot be one of indolence. A physician’s life is not to be judged of from the popular notions concerning it, but can only be understood from the words of one who has actually experienced its vicissitudes. We all have our trials, no matter how placed. Interference, silly suggestion, blame, calumny, preference given to the shallow pretender, are the least of these,