

of medicine. It is really surprising what an amount of work can be gone through with, when this course is followed; but, as an additional inducement, I would say that men who are methodical in their habits are generally of a practical turn of mind, and that practical men are usually not only those who deserve success, but who have it. Let not the allurements, the temptations of a great city, its gilt and glitter, dazzle your eyes, and draw away your attention from that, which for the next six months should be uppermost in your mind. Fix your eyes steadily at the point towards which you are aiming; turn your head neither to the right hand, nor to the left hand, press steadily forward, and, when the session closes next spring, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your time has been well and profitably passed, and that you have stored up not a little information, which will enable you next year to proceed to the more practical part of your studies. This session, to a very extent, your attention will be directed to those elementary branches which constitute the ground work of our profession. It is very essential that you should pay the closest possible attention to Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Physiology. Under the head of Anatomy, I include not only the regular course given by the professor of that branch, but the continuance of its study, upon the dead body in the dissecting room. The importance of this portion of your studies cannot be over estimated, enabling you, as it does, to examine *in situ* those parts with which surgeons should be perfectly familiar. In being able to prosecute this study openly, you are placed in a position of great privilege, compared with those who, even a comparatively few years ago, occupied the same position that you do to-day. To the public mind, however, there is still the same horror connected with this use of the dead subject as there was when Herophilus, a Greek physician, 570 years before Christ, first used for the purposes of dissection the human body. Nor is it likely that with the great mass of the public this feeling will ever be overcome. It is so thoroughly engrafted in human nature, that nothing but a thorough realization of its absolute necessity can, I believe, ever reconcile any one to its adoption. While, therefore, I recommend close attention in the room which is devoted to Practical Anatomy, I also ask you to look with reverence upon those poor relics of humanity, which are its occupants, and which the law of the land has appropriated for your use. Remember that the cold inanimate form which will then lie before you was once tenanted by an immortal soul, and walked erect,

the image of its Maker. But, gentlemen, although I speak thus strongly about the attention due to Anatomy, do not for one moment imagine that I do not attach the utmost importance to the other branches which constitute the remainder of your elementary medical education. I have first brought Anatomy before your notice, and urged your particular attention to it, because among students it is generally considered somewhat dry and uninteresting, and the subject which, above all others, they can most readily neglect. A greater mistake was never made. Its importance cannot be too strongly brought before you, while I assure you the interesting character of the study will certainly be appreciated by those who honestly and conscientiously set themselves to work to study the wonderful mechanism which the Almighty has created.

Chemistry, another elementary branch, will command a portion of your time, and is sure to rivet your attention from the interesting character of the study itself. Its importance, in connection with the science of Medicine, is every year becoming more evident. The gigantic strides which it has made within a comparatively few years has enabled much that was before of a somewhat dubious character in other departments of Medicine, to be settled definitely.

Materia Medica, or that branch of the Science of Medicine which treats of the nature and properties of all the substances that are employed for the cure of disease, is also an elementary or primary branch, and should be one of the lectures taken by all first year students. Its study is deeply interesting, and when we consider the vast number of drugs and herbs which now comprise the Materia Medica, and the very important purposes to which they administer, it is an absolute necessity that it should be completely mastered. I need hardly say one word, how necessary it is that every medical man should be able to know the general properties of the great majority of these drugs, for it is self-evident, and requires no amplification.

Physiology, which I have the honor to teach in this University, is the last on the list of primary branches, and, of all the subjects comprised in the elementary course, it is the one which, in my opinion, has most to commend it, as a purely interesting study to the student of Medicine. In ancient times, Physiology formed part of Astronomy, Alchemy and Physics, and was conducted or formed by speculative reasoning, without having any basis of established facts. The ideas of ancient philosophers, who attempted to unravel the