

many to medicine as their career in life. Those who find their way to wealth, influence and position are few. To the majority who commence their professional studies in medicine in October, medicine will prove a harsh mother, and will give little beyond the necessities of a simple and frugal life. The man who is to succeed must give himself up to being a student for five years at least, and that means that he must have sufficient capital to keep himself during that time, as well as to pay the necessary fees. It is no small matter to fix one's life before-hand for a certain five or six years, and the importance of the decision is in no way lightened by the knowledge that a medical education is peculiarly special, leads to little else but medicine, is of no service in obtaining entry into any other profession or even trade, and that, unless it can be carried through to the end, it means so much loss of time.

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ECZEMA OF THE GENITALS.—J. Abbott Cantrell, M.D., in the August number of Philadelphia *Polyclinic*, says that in his experience this is one of the most disagreeable and distressing complaints that can afflict a person. The disease may attack the penis or scrotum alone, or both in conjunction. The patch may be a small one, and may be moist or dry. The usual condition is a thickened, swollen and infiltrated condition of the parts, very red and painful to the touch. The scrotum may be thrown up in ridges and covered with crusts that leave a raw surface on removal. This inflammation often extends to the anus and adjoining parts. The patient is unable to walk with ease, and the itching is very intense. In the female, the same conditions of swelling, inflammation and irritation exist. In the treatment of this troublesome affection the greatest care must be paid to the digestive organs. No article of diet should be taken that is known to disagree with the patient in the slightest degree. If the action of the intestinal canal is rather sluggish, saline laxatives should be ordered. The kidneys must be kept active, and citrate of potash or lithium in small doses may be given in the morning, and throughout the day if required. When the parts are much swollen, very red and painful, the patient should be ordered to bed, and the inflamed parts frequently bathed and fomented with a saturated solution of boric acid. Black wash is also a good lotion. After the inflammation has been relieved by this means, an ointment of grs. 10 to grs. 30 of calomel to the ounce of zinc oxide ointment as a base. In cases where the skin is much indurated, but not severely inflamed, a stimulating application of grs. 20 salicylic acid to an ounce of vaseline is very useful.