

It is not well with a university when its graduates do not take a deep interest in her affairs ; but this can never, in my opinion, be realized until this important body has the fullest reason for the belief that its representations will receive due consideration. Gentlemen, it is your duty, as well as that of all graduates, to see to this.

Modern Botany has made us familiar with the fact that, though the greater part of a tree is made up of structures now dead or possessed of a very low vitality, throughout the really growing part there is a continuity of the essential protoplasm. Without pushing the comparison too far, may I not truthfully state that the graduates largely represent in the University the essential growing part, the part that most readily adapts to the environment ? A university needs, as a tree, the supporting structures, which may be said to represent the conservative element. But it may have these and neither grow nor adapt. It may have these and gradually decay. Let me remind those that may be inclined to despise the importance of the youthful element in university affairs that life—all life—implies *constant* adaptation and ceaseless change. It is either change and progress or it is stagnation and death. With the life of a cell or the life of a university, it is the same—change, change, slow or rapid as the surroundings demand. The time when any man feels like saying “ Now all is well, now I will rest,” marks the epoch of commencing senility, arrest of progress, decay ; and this period seems to be reached by some men fearfully soon. With some it began before they were born. The same holds for a university.

When, gentlemen, I had the pleasure of meeting you in my own lecture-room, you may remember that I occasionally referred, with a view of stimulating you with a glimpse of a grand future, to the great change that is coming over every department of medicine. We are in the midst of a period of unequalled progress. Changes of the most profound character are taking place in medicine as an art and especially as a science. Call it a revolution or an evolution as you will, it is coming—aye, it has come ; and happy are they that realize it ! I have always maintained