

among human occupations. I have seen with my own eyes what the late Henry I. Bowditch used to say he wished he might live to see with his: the marvellous strides which were made in the last part of the nineteenth century in the fight against disease. The field of medicine has been freely invaded by surgery, until it has seemed that perhaps nothing would be left for medicine. The line of attack has advanced and retreated, retreated and advanced, but the ground gained by surgery has always been greater than that lost, until the borderline between medicine and surgery has been carried far into what was once the domain of medicine.

It is well for us at times to pause and consider, not only the things that we have accomplished, but the things that we have failed in; to take account of stock and to open a fresh ledger; to balance old accounts and to start new ones; to claim as surgeons the achievements of surgery, but to admit as candid and fair-minded men our failures and disappointments, and, in thus admitting our failures, to strive with our medical confrères to indicate the lines along which progress is to be made.

Our duty to our students and to our readers is to present an impartial account of our work, and particularly of our failures, lest they find, when they first encounter the responsibilities of practice results very different from what they have been led to expect. We must teach young men exactly what difficulties they themselves will meet with, lest, in seeing failures where they were led to look for successes, in meeting disaster where they anticipated victory, they become unduly discouraged.

In ourselves as teachers we must remember, on the other hand, that failures are more depressing than successes and more lasting in the memory. We must, therefore, strive lest we become too pessimistic as our experience increases. Indeed, if we should go on living and practising indefinitely, I sometimes think that by the time we were as old as Methuselah, we should, under the accumulated disasters of centuries of experience, come to a standstill, and be afraid to undertake even the simplest case.

But if we cannot transmit to others our experience in full, so that they can take up the burden just as we leave it and with the ripe experience of our years, we can endeavor to transmit at least those principles which our experience has established. Then, with such precepts and warnings as we may be able to impress