

Whilst a physician should not be too hasty in forming a gloomy prognosis or in magnifying the importance of his services, it is his imperative duty to warn the friends when danger really exists. And as it is the special mission of the physician to minister hope and comfort to the sick, he should avoid most scrupulously every word or act which may tend to discourage or depress the spirits of his patient. Even where the case is incurable, the physician should not abandon his patient, as he may relieve pain and other symptoms, and thus contribute to his comfort, and diminish the distress and anxiety of his friends.

In cases of real doubt or difficulty consultations should be asked for, as they strengthen the hands of the physician in attendance, and increase the confidence of the patient. I must here remind you that when an hour has been fixed for a consultation, the greatest punctuality must be observed. But circumstances may arise, which will prevent a physician from keeping his appointment, in which case he should, if possible, notify his confrère, and a fresh appointment can be made.

In consultations the attending physician must first examine his patient, after which the consulting physician should have an opportunity of doing so, and of asking such questions as he may deem necessary to satisfy himself, as to the true nature of the case. No statement or discussion should take place before the patient or his friends; but both physicians should retire to a separate room, and after exchanging views upon the case, the attending physician should then communicate the result of their deliberations to the patient and his friends, and give all directions for the further treatment of the case.

The responsibility must then be equally divided between the medical attendants, who share alike the blame of failure or the credit of success. The consulting physician should conscientiously maintain the attending physician in the confidence and good opinion of the family into which he is called, as any attempt on his part, by word or deed, to ingratiate himself and basely supplant the medical attendant, would be most dishonest, and unworthy any member of an honorable profession. And, gentlemen, there is no profession from the members of which there is required a higher standard of morality than the medical. Let therefore your habits be regular; do not devote too much time to pleasure, politics or any other pursuit which may incapacitate you for the faith-

ful performance of your professional duties. And here let me warn you against the far too prevalent habits of "*nipping and smoking*." It is incumbent upon the members of our profession to be temperate in all things, with eyes clear, hands steady and brain unclouded, ready to act on any emergency, where the life of a fellow-creature may be in danger.

Can you imagine anything more distasteful to a delicate and refined lady than to have a physician ushered into her presence, whose breath is redolent of the fumes of Old Rye, and whose clothes are reeking with the odor of stale tobacco? In these degenerate days, I know that it is useless for me to tell you not to smoke. I will therefore content myself with earnestly advising you to reserve your pipe or cigar until after you have made your daily round of visits. And, gentlemen, one word more and I have finished.

Do not get discouraged if practice does not come quickly, and be led to make the fatal mistake of having flaming advertisements or reports of operations and cases inserted in the daily papers. These are the common practices of the quack or empiric, and are considered discreditable to members of the regular profession. Your time can be profitably spent in making careful notes of every case that may come under your observation; from the daily papers you can post yourself upon the news of the day, and from medical journals, for one or two of which I would advise you to subscribe, you will be able to keep yourselves *au fait* in all matters more closely connected with your profession.

And now, gentlemen, in the name of your professors, I bid you good-bye and Godspeed.

### VALEDICTORY ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.

BY DR. S. A. A. THOMAS.

WORTHY CHANCELLOR, DEAR PROFESSORS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I regret that I have to express my thoughts in a language for which I have much admiration, but which, owing to my early training, I speak but imperfectly; however, trusting to your generosity and to your kindness, I have accepted the honor of addressing you this day in behalf of the graduating class, although this could have been better done by any of my confrères.

At last we have completed our 4 years of student's life, rather of college life,—for the medical