

practical knowledge, for if there be one man more than another who should be of the world rather than of the closet, it is the physician. There is no information you can secure which may not at some time prove valuable in your versatile profession. Your patients themselves must be your chief study, not only their physical symptoms, but whatever betrays their mental characteristics. It is a mistake to leave this entirely to the alienist. No one can understand his patient better than the old fashioned family doctor. Mind and body are so closely interlaced that it is just as necessary for the successful conduct of a case that you know how to handle your patients's thoughts and feelings as it is that you know how and when to give medicine; indeed, you may thus oftentimes be able to dispense with drugs. Herein excel the empiric, the Christian scientist, and all of that ilk, whose shrewd observations, astounding simple-minded folk bring them amazing credit and pelf. We may learn from them, finding good in everything. While medicine should have your best service and loyal devotion, do not fail to add to your professional equipment the broadest culture within your reach. Devote a portion of your leisure to the pursuit of general literature, art and other branches of knowledge than your own. Such attainments will bring practice to your door apart from their intrinsic pleasure. They will aid in establishing that intimacy with your patients so necessary that you may use your special knowledge for their relief.

Make it a rule also to take a yearly vacation, and seek the quiet and peace of the hill-tops, the woods and the seashore, where nature is waiting to teach new lessons. Some brief respite from unremitting duties is essential for your mental and bodily welfare. Self-interest demands that you take care of yourselves as well as your patients. The only success worth the name is when a man gets what he desires, be it fame or power or wealth, without paying too dearly for it. If the gain be at the price of physical, intellectual or moral health, he gives, like the ignorant native, pearls for a bauble.

And now as your Alma Mater wrings your hand in parting, for she must not keep you longer, though she would, her exhortations, mother like, become even more personal.

No matter to what pinnacle of success you rise, be modest. The full head of wheat bends low. When Paré, chief in the domain of surgery in the sixteenth century, wrote that "he had left nothing for posterity but the small hope of adding some few things to what he had done," he little thought that he was penning words that would be a warning to us against similar boastful folly. Nevertheless, learn to value your own opinions, and, if inclined to doubt your powers, remember that "our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." It is as injurious to underrate as to overrate oneself. The truly great man is humble, but he knows his business, and knows that he knows it, only he is not vain on that account. It is the men who, like the general paretic, delude themselves that they have what they lack whose self-confidence is morbid.