

## Original Communications.

*Address to the Graduates in Medicine of the University of Bishop's College, delivered at the Annual Convocation of the University, June 24th, 1875.*  
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MY LORD,

HONORABLE CHANCELLOR,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
GRADUATES IN MEDICINE,

On behalf of the Medical Faculty of this University, allow me to offer you their warm congratulations upon the auspicious termination of your collegiate career. The Honorable Chancellor has just conferred upon you the Degree of Master in Surgery and Doctor of Medicine, and you now stand before the world as duly qualified members of a great and noble profession. This occasion, long looked forward to, is full of interest not alone to you, but to all who take an interest in Medical education. To-day your term of pupilage is ended, and well remembering the time when I stood in a like position I can appreciate the load which has fallen from your shoulders, and the buoyancy of your spirits, as you stand upon the threshold of your professional career, and look forward with the hope and the enthusiasm of youth into the unrevealed future. To-day a new life is opening before you, and as you stand upon the brink of that river upon whose distant shore are gathered the promises and the rewards of the future, let us for a moment pause, and calmly survey the scene. The profession which you have chosen as the future occupation of your life requires no eulogium from me. It came into existence because it was a necessity, and it has ever since its birth been fostered and cared for by the good, the learned, the benevolent of every age. Gentlemen, the inception of our profession dates long ages back. I fear we seldom think of the great honor which you and I have in belonging to a profession which is so ancient, and which has a pedigree of which perhaps no other profession can boast. Hippocrates the father of Medicine, was born 500 years before the Christian era, and the brilliancy of his intellect was such that, though living at a time when Ancient Greece was in her period of greatest refinement, and standing, as he did, side by side with Socrates and Plato—names which will ever shed lustre on their time—his has come down to us with a veneration which century upon century has not effaced. Is not this an ancestry to boast of? Have you then thought of the great responsibility which is im-

posed upon you, now that you are numbered among its members. The human body "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" is henceforth to be the object of your constant care and continued study. From morn till evening, and often during the still watches of the night, the sick chamber will make demands upon you. Within its precincts you will, if faithful to your duty, meet with triumphs which will cheer and encourage you; you will also meet with failures—be prepared for them, and not cast down. Ever bear in mind that your skill is human, and that we have to admit the fact, that there are diseases which as yet yield not to the Physician's skill. The science of medicine has not, as yet, in all its numerous branches and departments, reached absolute perfection; in a word, we cannot call it an exact science. Yet the rapid progress which has taken place in our profession during the present century, leads us to entertain the hope that in time the Physician will be able to deal successfully with diseases which we are now forced to pronounce incurable. The human body, with its complex and yet most perfect machinery, has during the past four years been the subject of your investigation. In health, and in its action under disease, you have witnessed those apparently numberless phenomena, which it is capable of exhibiting; and now, believing in your ability to deal scientifically with the various derangements which may occur to it, we send you forth, attesting to your competency by the seal of this University. The charge which has now been entrusted to you is one of the most serious which can be placed in the hands of mortal man. Henceforth your pathway will lie amid scenes of suffering and of death, and you will often be called upon to face disease in its most deadly, and its most loathsome forms. When the atmosphere is heavy with germs of disease—when universal panic extends over the land—you will I doubt not be found—as our profession ever has been found—true and steadfast in the performance of your duty. For in a time of peril, when disease is cutting down the strong and the vigorous all around you, to you the public will look for cheering influence, for hope and for life. At such a time you will require much to sustain you, and the thought that you are humble instruments in the hands of the great Physician will, I doubt not, give you strength for the contest. Often when tired and exhausted nature is demanding the repose necessary for its recuperation, your bell will summon you to the post of danger—not alone to your patient but danger to yourself. Unlike the soldier who leaves his home for the field of battle amid the shouts and the huzzas of a sympathising populace, and who re-