

A D D R E S S .

Gentlemen :

The ceremony through which you have just passed is one which is well calculated to make a deep and lasting impression upon your minds, for it not only marks an important period of your lives, but it possesses a significance which, I trust, you fully comprehend and appreciate.

The University has this day conferred upon you the honour for which you have been striving during the last four years,—an honour which consists not merely in an empty title, but which implies your fitness for a position of influence and responsibility. You have completed the prescribed course of study, and your teachers, after a careful and searching examination, have declared you to be “learned in the Science of Medicine and Masters of the Art of Surgery”. But it cannot be pretended that entering this stately Hall as students only, you are to leave it as accomplished practical physicians. The ceremonial of to-day possesses no such magic influence,—it merely marks the point at which one part of your studies ends and another and more important part begins. It is with reference to this latter part of your studies that, in taking leave of you, I offer a few words of parting counsel.

Gentlemen, I trust that you are fully conscious of the importance of the duties on which you are now entering. You are assuming a vast responsibility. You have equipped yourselves like a band of warriors to ward off the attacks and to stop the ravages of the most insidious and the most insatiable of enemies; and you must remember that yours is a very peculiar position. You are not to go forth as a united band, where a steady discipline will maintain you in your ranks, and where you will be cheered by the presence and support of your comrades. Each of you has to march forth alone, and must be prepared to act unsupported in any emergency which may arise. Not in the glare of day and before admiring spectators are your laurels to be won. In darkness and in solitude must your struggles be maintained.

Each of you who in after life shall practise his profession, will doubtless find himself in circumstances where, humanly speaking, life