

in life you have taken the wrong turn in the road. I believe the profession is fairly well paid perhaps ; but few medical men amass wealth to-day, a bare living is about all that comes to the lot of most, with perhaps a little to lay up for a rainy day. But grander rewards than gold lie before you, sublimer honors await you if you love your profession and are determined to excel. In no profession perhaps is it more true that there is plenty of room at the top, aye, and plenty of fadeless crowns to be had for the winning. Your calling is among the loftiest that a man can follow. In its ranks have stood some of the grandest men in earth's honor-roll, even the perfect Man himself. The mighty Teacher of men did not despise the office of physician, but went about healing those who were diseased. Keep ever before you the loftiness of your work ; do not descend to quackery or charlatanism.

We shall follow you with a jealous eye. Your successes will be ours, your triumphs will make us glad, while your failures and dishonors, if unhappily they should come, will smite us through with sadness. You belong to a college which is youthful and vigorous, but which perhaps can hardly be called strong as yet, or at least only strong in the unquenchable zeal of its Faculty and Alumni ; in its determination to excel in the quality of the work which it does, and in the profound conviction that it has a work to do in this land, and that whatever may betide, and at whatever cost, it will continue to make room for itself and advance to the utmost of its power the cause of medical training throughout this broad Dominion. We therefore look to you—by the eminence which you may obtain in your profession—by the successes which you may achieve—by the laurels which you may win—and by the interest which you may show in the welfare of your Alma Mater to help us in our toil of duty and love.

Let me urge you, first, all to be men—men of thought, men of science—don't drift.

The stream of human life is being blocked up with drift-wood. It is so easy to drift.

One of the first temptations that will meet you as you go out into your profession will be to drift into a mere rule-of-thumb practice—A mere routine manner of prescribing certain stereotyped blunderbuss formulæ, which are fired off simply because they happened to have appeared to do some one good some day, or because there are so many ingredients in it that it will be almost sure to hit something.

Make every case a special study—be specialists in that sense—these are the specialists the profession most needs. Remember that it is the duty of every physician to patiently, persistently and scientifically investigate every disease he is called upon to treat. In no other way can you become competent practitioners. It is your duty to yourself—it is your duty to your patient—it is your duty to your profession ; and investigate in more than one direction. The fear comes to me sometimes that we are drifting too much into the mere investigation of the etiology of disease. I admit that the bold investigations in this line have been very instructive and interesting. And we are all now ready to acknowledge that diphtheria, scarlatina, tuberculosis and other diseases are germ diseases and Koch's common bacillus seems to present very strong claims to be recognized as an important factor in the production of cholera.

The uniformity with which certain parasites are found in connection with certain pathological conditions clearly establishes the fact that these minute creatures are either the product of these diseases or the exciting causes of them. Thus much valuable light has been thrown into dark places. But I believe that larger therapeutical knowledge is needed. We need more facts and less theories. We need more exact observations of a clinical and therapeutical character. It has been truly said that the place to study disease intelligently is at the bedside.

Do not be dazzled by the brilliancy of those wonderful investigations of Koch and Pasteur and run off in these lines, but keep up your interest in clinical observation. There are other fields lying untraversed before you, and not least among them are Pathological Histology and Chemical Therapeutics—if you will permit the phrase.

We want to know not only what causes the disease but what can prevent and destroy it ; and not only what can destroy it, but how it does it, what is its modus operandi, and what is its action on the various tissues.

Again, I would say do not drift into disregard of human life. Human life is the most sacred earthly treasure. Don't take it upon yourself to decide in any case that death is better than life,—that a certain life is valueless. We cannot know of what value a life may be. We cannot know what may hang even upon a few hours of life. It is our business to heal and relieve disease and prolong human life to the very utmost.

Scientific knowledge is of immense value, but we buy it too dearly when we buy it at the expense of