

" a youth of moderate ability may find himself far in advance of the
 " student who works spasmodically and trusts to *cramming*. . . .
 " And thirdly add to the Virtue of Method, the *Quality of Thorough-*
 " *ness*, an element of such importance that I had thought of making
 " it the only subject of my remarks. Unfortunately, in the present
 " arrangement of the curriculum, few of you as students can hope to
 " obtain more than a measure of it, but all can learn its value now,
 " and ultimately with patience become living examples of its benefit.
 " Let me tell you briefly what it means. A knowledge of the funda-
 " mental sciences upon which our art is based—chemistry, anatomy,
 " and physiology—not a smattering, but a full and deep acquaintance,
 " not with all the facts, that is impossible, but with the great principles
 " based upon them. You should, as students, become familiar with
 " the methods by which advances in knowledge are made, and in the
 " laboratory see clearly the paths the great masters have trodden,
 " though you yourselves cannot walk therein. With a good prelimin-
 " ary training and a due apportioning of time you can reach in these
 " three essential studies a degree of accuracy which is the true prepara-
 " tion for your life duties. It means such a knowledge of diseases and
 " of the emergencies of life and of the means for their alleviation, that
 " you are safe and trustworthy guides for your fellow-men. . . .
 " The Art of Detachment, the Virtue of Method, and the Quality of
 " Thoroughness may make you students, in the true sense of the word,
 " successful practitioners, or even great investigators; but your char-
 " acters may still lack that which can alone give permanence to
 " powers—the *Grace of Humility*. . . . In these days of aggres-
 " sive self-assertion, when the stress of competition is so keen, and the
 " desire to make the most of oneself so widespread, it may seem a
 " little old-fashioned to preach the necessity of this virtue, but I insist
 " for its own sake, and for the sake of what it brings, that a due
 " humility should take the place of honour on the list. For its own
 " sake, since with it comes not only a reverence for truth, but also a
 " proper estimation of the difficulties encountered in our search for it.
 " More perhaps than any other professional man, the doctor has a
 " curious—shall I say morbid?—sensitiveness to (what he regards)
 " personal error. In a way this is right; but it is often accompanied
 " by a *cocksureness* of opinion (to use a Johnsonian word) which, if
 " encouraged, leads to so lively a conceit that the mere suggestion of
 " mistake under any circumstances is regarded as a reflection on his
 " honour, a reflection equally resented whether of lay or of professional
 " origin. Start out with the conviction that absolute truth is hard to
 " reach in matters relating to our fellow-creatures, healthy or diseased,