

to human powers—the *grace of Humility*. The great Spinoza said that the two fertile sources of all evil and hindrances to all good were sloth and conceit; and the great Bacon reminds us emphatically that we can enter the Kingdom of Knowledge only as we enter the Kingdom of heaven—by becoming as little children. And such a quality is of peculiar necessity and excellence in respect to the special point we have been considering of the formation and transformation of our habits. If we are self-satisfied, confident of our own powers and our own attainments, it is but little likely that we shall acquire those habits and dispositions which will fit us for the work of our life; whilst, on the other hand, if we carry about with us a habitual sense of the infinite nature of knowledge, of the difficulty of life, together with a humble estimate of our own powers, we shall be watchful against temptation, we shall resist the beginnings of evil, we shall be careful to fulfil every duty as it arises, never hesitating, never debating or questioning, but only acting with decision and promptitude when the duty has become clear to us. Here is the secret of the formation of habit, and the formation of character.

So far our remarks have been almost equally applicable to men of any profession; and now we come to one, which, while it applies to all men and is the characteristic of him whom we style a gentleman, yet has a special application to the medical man. The physician should be a *man of honour*. There are three classes of men who, beyond all others, have access to the families of other men, and who become, of necessity, acquainted with their condition and circumstances—the lawyer, the clergyman, and the physician; and, if one of these can be dispensed with in time of need, it is not the physician. He is admitted

to an intimacy which is accorded to no one else beyond the family circle; and therefore his relation to the family partakes of a sacred character; and the knowledge which he gains of the family is as sacred to him as the privacy of his own home. He will no more discuss his patients with his neighbor than he will discuss his wife.

On these points, gentlemen, you will receive counsel and guidance from the experienced and honorable men who are here set over you; and experience and observation will enforce these lessons. But we who are outside the faculty may sometimes hear and know of circumstances which are not in quite the same manner brought under the notice of medical men themselves; and we know that there is nothing which the ordinary man, and still more the ordinary woman, more indignantly resents than being made the subject of discussion by her medical attendant. Such things seldom occur; but when they do occur, they are fatal, and they ought to be fatal to the reputation and influence of the medical man, however great his ability.

I have dwelt the longer upon subjects not specially medical for obvious reasons; but perhaps I may be allowed to touch upon certain aspects of your work here which may be set forth without special knowledge.

You come here to be qualified for one of the most useful and beneficent kinds of work in which any human being can engage. You come to gain knowledge of man, of his structure and functions, and of those agencies by which disease may be banished and health restored to the bodies of men. You come to have your power and habits of observation rendered more acute and vigorous. You are here that you may become acquainted with the past history of medicine and surgery, and that you may see the experience of the past illus-