

previously popular treatment, but he fails to understand what is substituted for it, so, knowing that a certain percentage of his patients will recover if he does nothing, he might possibly be tempted to pursue that course. Before you attempt to put into practice such a line of treatment, or rather non-treatment, reflect, for possibly the very case you are then called upon to treat may be the one which makes a difference in the percentage, which, naturally fatal, may be healed by art.

Alcohol, one of the most powerful therapeutical remedies that we possess, is one that, perhaps more than any other, requires the soundest judgment and greatest caution in its administration, not alone for the physical effects, but also for the moral influence it may exert on the future welfare of your patient. As you have been fully instructed when you should administer it and when you should refrain from doing so, I will merely suggest to you never to prescribe it without the most careful consideration.

You will hear over and over again from some of your patients or friends, advanced in years, that diseases are not the same now as they used to be, that they are changed in type, and you will hear a very great deal about difference in treatment then and now. Some twenty-five or thirty years ago it was no unusual thing to read the medical history of some cases, thus: A. B. caught fever, gave him calomel, bled him, blistered him, died on the third day. It has been suggested that fevers, especially, are not what they were; and that, though we are probably right in the way we deal with them, yet our forefathers might have been right, too, in adopting an opposite line of treatment. It had been supposed by many that we Britons are more puny and faint-hearted than of yore, and that an increasingly vitiated progeny is yearly brought into the world, which is less and less able to bear either the disease or the remedy. All trustworthy records show this to be incorrect. Measurements of ancient armour and clothes show that we are bigger; measurements of athletic feats show that we are stronger; the profits of Insurance Companies show that we are longer lived; the diminished ravages of epidemics show that we resist disease better than our ancestors. The most complete answer to these change of type theorists is afforded by the fact elicited by statisticians that in reality our forefathers did not have their lives prolonged by the antiphlogistic discipline. They stood it just as we would stand it, but such good recoveries as we make now they did not make. The change of type is in the doctor, not in the

disease or patient; and we believe the change to consist in our truer insight into the nature of that living body with which we have to deal. And this truer insight we would attribute to the general diffusion of studies to which you have devoted your time, and which at first glance may seem to have had no bearing upon the matter in hand. These studies you should still continue to pursue, and you also should earnestly endeavor, by accurate observation and careful investigation, to add something, be it never so simple, to what is already known in relation to the science of medicine.

Now, gentlemen, a very important question, and one that naturally suggests itself to your mind is: What are my prospects of getting on in life? In answer to that you have but to read the history of the lives of eminent physicians. Who are the successful men of the present day? Almost without exception they are the hard-working men. I say "almost" because it is quite true that many a man to whom Nature has been sparing in her intellectual endowments will succeed, as far as the eyes of the general public are concerned, provided he be gifted with a plausible manner. But the really successful man, who is esteemed alike by his confrères and his patients, is the man who laid the foundation of his success in early and continued hard work. This hard work must be begun with the poor. It is with them you must first make a reputation, and to do that you will require to be particularly careful how you comport yourself at the bedside. They may or may not have an opinion as to your knowledge of disease, but will judge of you by your look, whether intelligent or vacant; by your obvious perception or non-perception of the "position" of matters, and not the least by the use you make of your hands, whether in feeling the pulse, in practising percussion, in determining the posture of a limb, or in applying a splint or bandage. Confidence is more certainly inspired in a patient by skill in these details than by external reputation or high social connection.

You must not expect that success and eminence can be gained at once, nor be disappointed if you do not immediately attain them. You must give proof that you possess both skill and learning. Those of you especially who intend to commence city practice, in the early part of your professional career, will meet with a great deal of misery and poverty. You will frequently be compelled to listen to the complaints of worn and listless women; you will be called upon to soothe the cough of