

In addressing a few words to you on the position which the medical profession at present holds, I must admit that different men hold very opposite views on this point. Some will tell you that the profession is underrated, unhonoured, underpaid, its members social drudges—the very last profession they would recommend a young man to take up. Listen not to these croakers ; there are such in every calling, and the secret of their discontent is not hard to discover. The evils which they deprecate, and ascribe—it is difficult to say to whom—in themselves do lie,—evils, the seeds of which were sown when they were as you are now, sown in hours of idleness, in inattention to studies, in consequent failure to grasp those principles of their science without which the practice of medicine does indeed become a drudgery, for it degenerates into a business. I would rather tell you of a profession honoured above all others ; one which, while calling forth the highest powers of the mind, brings you into such warm personal contact with your fellow-men that the heart and sympathies of the coldest nature must needs be enlarged thereby. For consider the practical outcome of all the knowledge you gather ; the active work for which your four years' study is a preparation. Will not your whole energies be spent in befriending the sick and suffering ? in helping those who cannot help themselves ? in rescuing valuable lives from the clutch of grim disease ? in cheering the loving nurses of the sick, who often hang upon your words with a most touching trust ? Ay ! and in lessening the sad sum of human misery and pain by spreading, as far as in you lies, the knowledge and appreciation of those grand laws of health transgressed so ignorantly and yet avenged so fatally.

It cannot be denied that, (excepting the clerical profession, the members of which, in this country at least, can seldom look for the fruit and reward of their labors on this side Heaven), there are fewer great prizes open to the medical man than to others from whom a long and special training is demanded. He is not raised to command his fellow-men ; his name is not immortalized in history and song like those of the gallant veterans who wear her Majesty's uniform, and risk their lives for their