

tency may always be yours, and a share of that worldly distinction of which all are more or less ambitious. You have a great and glorious work before you, namely, to relieve suffering, and to put back death,—and see to it that you prepare yourself well for the fight, else your defeat is certain, and may be most disastrous. When it is considered what dire consequences may follow even a comparatively trifling error in the practice of medicine, is it to be wondered at that teachers show such anxiety to be thoroughly understood, and that examiners often appear so exacting? They feel, and most naturally too, the grave responsibility of their respective positions; and between them and the public a tacit understanding exists, regarding the qualifications of those who are to minister to their wants when laid low by accident or disease.

You are fortunate in entering upon the study of medicine at this time. Medicine is advancing with gigantic strides in every direction; connections with the kindred sciences are being made daily, new lines of enquiry are being opened up, and problems hitherto not dreamt of are pressing forward eagerly for solution, so that the hum of a busy and fruitful activity is pervading all its ranks. Medicine is acknowledged on all hands to have made a greater advance in the past twenty years than in the century before. Men representing every department are now busily at work. Where before chemists and physiologists alone occupied the dark lanes of research, we now find the agents of pathology and therapeutics pushing eagerly forward in the van, and with the aid of experiment, wiping out old and fusty traditions. The latter, especially, which has been well-likened to a lazy boy always lagging behind his fellows, will ere long have burst the rusty bars that confine him, and reach that seat in the science of medicine that has been vacant so long. You may plead, and with some reason, too, that on account of these advances, the work in store for you will be greater than that required of your predecessors. That is true, but only in part, for whereas the amount of ground to be surveyed is now-a-days greater in extent, the facility and accuracy of research have more than proportionately increased. What would your