

To those who come to us for the first time, who to-day enrol themselves as students of medicine, we likewise extend our hearty welcome. At the very outset of your student's career, I would not wish to say one word which will dampen the ardor which I feel sure pervades each breast. Yet I feel that my duty would not be performed did I not ask each one of you if you have well considered the very important step which you are now taking. If you have, and it seems to me that your answer is in the affirmative, I welcome you to the work which, though arduous and entailing constant toil, has much about it which is pleasant and agreeable. Indeed, gentlemen, in after years, when the cares and anxieties of practice surround you, you will often look back upon your student's life as being one of the green spots, an ever-to-be-remembered landmark in your existence. To-day you enter upon your work, full of energy and of hope, and it is well you should do so, for on the very threshold of your studies, you will meet with not a little which will perplex and worry you. Be not dismayed, gentlemen, but persevere; remember the proverbs "*There is no Royal road to learning,*" and "*What is worth having, is worth fighting for.*" In the words of Dr. Williams, "I almost envy the pleasure, in young and ardent minds, of rising step by step, in knowledge, and delighting in the wonders of the enlarging view. I admit that the ascent is arduous, that it requires hard labor, and no little self-denial. But is there no compensation in the delight of acquiring knowledge and intellectual power? No gratification in learning and contemplating the intricate beauties of the most perfect part of the creation? Is there no moral and religious good to our own minds in tracing out and unveiling its frailties, weakness, decay and death? No satisfaction in learning of means which a gracious Providence, supplies for preventing and removing the ills which flesh is heir to; for relief of pain, suffering, and weakness, and the restoration of health and strength? And if from present studies, you carry your anticipations onward to their final object in practice—under heaven, yourselves to ease suffering humanity, and to invigorate and prolong life—is the pursuit less noble, or less worthy of your highest thought? Need I say more, for the moral and intellectual greatness of our art.

"Is a study noble in proportion to the breadth and depth, and diversity of the knowledge on which it is founded? Then think of medicine! how she levies her contributions from every branch of knowledge. The human body exhibits a machinery

so perfect, that the most skilful mechanical philosopher may take lessons from studying it. It contains a laboratory so diversified, and chemical processes so subtle, that therein the ability of the most expert chemist is far surpassed. But the knowledge of the student of medicine must go beyond that of the mechanical and chemical philosopher. He must study those vital properties of which they can tell him nothing. He must become acquainted with the attributes of life operating in matter. In animal generation, nutrition, growth, secretion, motion and sensation; in the variations of these processes; in their decay, and in their cessation, which is death, he has a complicated study, peculiarly his own. He has, besides, to contemplate the body under disease, and to bring to his aid the three kingdoms of nature, and almost every art and every science, for agents and means to counteract and control that which disturbs its well-being. But if you would see the moral influence of medicine depicted in its liveliest hues, I would ask you to contemplate a domestic scene, a family whose hearts are wrung with a dreadful anxiety for one vibrating between life and death. What a ministering angel does the physician seem! How they watch his every look! with what breathless earnestness do they hang on his words; and those words how they wing themselves to the souls of the hearers for sorrow or for joy. Yet such scenes are passing daily, yes, hourly, in every class of society, in the mansion and in the cottage; they open the hearts of all; for the moral influence of medicine is bound up with the treasures of life and health, and with all those endearing ties that make these treasures doubly precious." Such, gentlemen, is a very brief description of the profession whose study you this day enter upon. I trust it has given you a clearer conception of the grandeur of our mission, and has increased your determination to be no laggard in acquiring that information, which it is necessary you should obtain, before this University can confer upon you the degree of Master in Surgery, and Doctor of Medicine. Every day of your student's life will have its duties, which if neglected and postponed will accumulate so rapidly upon you that it will soon be out of your power to overtake them. Let me therefore impress upon you, with all the force I can command, not to procrastinate, but to arrange in a methodical manner, your daily routine of work, and, having so arranged it, let no trivial circumstance cause you to deviate from it. This plan of methodicity is one which is invaluable at all periods of our lives, and I know of no better time to adopt its practice than when commencing the study