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Original Communications.

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATES IN MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE, DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION, APRIL 3RD, 1884.

By T. SIMPSON, M.D., Professor of Hygiene.

MR. CHANCELLOR,—Gentlemen Graduates,—It devolves on me, in the observance of a time-honored custom to address to you on this the occasion of our last meeting together as pupils and teachers a few words of congratulation and advice.

After years of toil, and no trifling amount of self-denial on the part of some of you, you have reached the goal for which you have striven, have received the highest honor in the gift of this University, and carry with you to-day its stamped certificate of proficiency.

I can well understand and appreciate the satisfaction and sense of relief with which you regard the termination to your pupilage, and the natural and proper confidence with which you look forward to a successful career—a confidence the fruition of which depends in a great measure upon your own tact and industry.

To-day you open a new book of record; the knowledge which you have obtained during your attendance upon lectures and in hospital wards fits you for the independent study and observation of disease and the various forms of injury to which the human body—yes, and mind—are subject.

Your studentship, it may be said, has but fairly begun, and if you desire to keep abreast of the

times and perform the work which you are about to undertake faithfully and conscientiously, students, and hard students, you must remain to the end.

Multitudes of crude theories are being sprung upon you, so to speak, from every quarter, with here and there a grain of valuable knowledge or practical suggestion, but, in order to winnow the grain from the chaff, constant vigilance and no trifling amount of labor are necessary.

The ingenuousness and enthusiasm of youth are apt to be imposed upon by the specious arguments of the visionary, and I conceive it to be my duty, armed by the gravity of this occasion, to caution you against the pit-falls of superficial reasoning and the false deductions of imperfect and hasty experiment. I speak of the honest theorist—this is no place to discuss the ways of the charlatan.

Perhaps in no other profession than the medical is the old advice to "hasten slowly" so applicable; do not misunderstand me, however, there must be nothing even approaching to indifference to progress, or lukewarmness. What I wish to inculcate is the necessity of cultivating a careful habit of discrimination and of calm examination, before pinning your faith to the plausible theories of even so-called authorities.

The art of medicine, owing to its present imperfections, furnishes an ever-varying and boundless field for the exercise of our faculties, and one of the chief safeguards against stagnation, lies in the fact that the deep interest, constant novelty, and unbounded capacity for good, which belong to the study and practice of medicine, have enlisted many of the ablest intellects of the past and present to devote themselves to the task of unravelling the