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BY

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Members of the Faculty and Students of McGill University:—

I deem it a very great honour to address you on this auspicious occasion. In bringing to McGill the greetings of Pennsylvania, I am, I trust, but strengthening the bond of mutual admiration and respect begun years ago through the instrumentality of your distinguished alumnus, our beloved Osler.

While delighted to be your guest this afternoon, I am not unmindful of my responsibilities, and stand upon this rostrum from which so many eminent speakers have addressed you, with certain feelings of reserve and timidity. To appear in the capacity of adviser to so large a body of plastic minds is indeed no trivial matter.

Gentlemen of the student body; the field you have chosen as the one in which to expend your lives' energies is many sided. It is replete with inviting avenues and vistas that appeal to each of us in a different degree, and on an occasion of this kind I fear there is often a tendency to paint in too glowing colours the beauties of this or that phase of our profession that may appeal to us, as individuals, most strongly.

In preparation, then, for what I shall have to say, for I am sure to be biased, let it be fixed in your minds that no matter what direction you may take, when traversing a narrow path, you are much more certain of reaching the desired goal if fully familiar with the lie of the surrounding land.

As you are doubtless aware the modern tendency in all big enterprises is specialization. In medicine, as in other pursuits, it is the order of the day, and for the full development of the subject it is doubtless the best order, but it is killing to the individual if begun too early in his career, if begun before he has acquired a firm, broad foundation.

I sound the note of warning because of the attractions offered by many of the special departments of medicine under conditions of modern