

which will often do more good than the most elegant prescription. Firmness will be demanded with a certain class of patients; but under no circumstances be brusque. Brusqueness in the physician or surgeon is invariably an indication of either ignorance or self-conceit. There was a time when the rudeness of an Abernethy was tolerated in men of remarkable ability; but that time has passed. Therefore, if you would succeed as a practitioner in any department of medicine, be kind, considerate, courteous. Courtesy makes the true gentleman. As Lord Chesterfield said: "Prepare yourselves for the world as the athletes used to do for their exercises; oil your mind and your manners to give them the necessary suppleness and flexibility, which strength alone will not do. As the family physician, and likewise also the family friend and councillor, see to it that the confidence reposed in you be not destroyed by prattling gossip. Hold inviolate the secrets confided to your keeping. Even the power of the law cannot wrench them from you. There is an impression that doctors as a class are hard-hearted. Such is not the case. Familiarity with frightful accidents and severe operations, as well as with disease and misery of all sorts, makes the surgeon, or the physician, calm and self-possessed. It is very necessary that such should be the case, but it will be found he is none the less capable of exhibiting a full share of sympathy and pity. Your reward of merit which you take away with you to-day, will prove of little or no value, unless reinforced by such conduct and deportment, professional and personal, as only befits the upright physician. Always, in deciding what you will do for the patient, consider what you would have the patient do for you, or some dear relative, under similar circumstances. In other words, keep ever before you the divine injunction: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

Aim to be cultivated physicians. Matthew Arnold defines culture as "The knowledge of the best that has been thought and said in the world." A cultivated man is always a broad man; as Goethe said, no side of a man's complex nature can be safely neglected; every faculty of the soul, the mind, and the body, should be developed to the greatest possible extent; so that each man may attain the full power and dignity of his nature. Throw physic to the dogs, then, occasionally. Find some congenial pursuit, as among the treasures of English literature; or, if books do not attract, cultivate some hobby, such as the collection of curios or etchings, or paintings, as your purse expands.

Travel when you can. See as much as possible, especially of your own country. Your opinion will be more highly valued when, along with your prescription of change of air or some Spa, you are in a position to furnish details from practical observation of the climatic conditions of the country, or the character and surroundings of the mineral spring to which you are sending your patient.