

nection, draw your attention to the necessity for your looking to the sanitary condition of dwellings as affecting the health of their inmates. The women and children of the community you live in will constitute a large majority of your patients, and this not only because they are more numerous, but because also they live more indoors and are much more susceptible to disease-producing influences than the adult males. On all such matters you will find a vast amount of ignorance and apathy on the part of husbands and fathers, frequently baffling, with sadness it must be admitted, the best directed efforts to counteract them.

I take it that the great object of the largest number of you is to obtain practice, to get patients, and this requires time. No clientèle well worth having, can be suddenly obtained. A practice quickly acquired is liable to be as quickly lost; you will therefore doubtless have to wait. Do not be deluded by instances you may hear of in which by some lucky chance a man suddenly works his way to fame and fortune. The celebrated English physician, Dr. Arbuthnot, is said to have suddenly become a fashionable doctor by his happening to be at Epsom when the carriage of the Prince of Orange was upset. There is doubtless a small amount of truth in this and similar instances. For the most of you it will be but a waste of time to sit behind a brass doorplate all day long doing nothing, or even drive about in a carriage with no patients to visit. All such expedients, sometimes resorted to, generally fail. You must wait, actively working while you wait. The exact form of work I cannot prescribe, but it may be at home, in a dispensary, a hospital or a medical school. You must also make your labors known, by medical societies, by journals or by separate publication, and be prepared to have been criticised and perhaps condemned; and it is well for all of us that our work should be criticised. If there is no medical society in your town or district one of the first things for you to do is to try and found one.

While waiting for practice and always throughout your medical career, you must read in order to keep pace with the progress of medical knowledge. It is after all but a small part that each of us can contribute to medical knowledge, but the sum of the contributions of many workers amounts to much. You must therefore acquaint yourselves with the work of others by reading books and monographs, but especially medical journals. But the periodical literature of medicine is exceedingly copious and sometimes of such a character as to more than justify the suspicion that the existence of it is rather for the necessities of the editors and writers than the hoped-for readers. You must therefore select for this and for another reason—for many of you money to subscribe will fail if time to read do not. But pardon me if I say that a single useful hint well repays the annual subscrip-