

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

Vol. XVI.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1888.

No. 6.

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CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE FOR CONFERRING DEGREES IN THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, MARCH 28TH, 1888.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE PROFESSORS, BY A. PROUDFOOT, M.D., PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES:—It is my privilege on this occasion to address to you a few words, and I embrace the opportunity with pleasure.

GENTLEMEN:—You have to-day reached the goal for which you have been striving for four long years; the days of your apprenticeship are over, and you will henceforth be at liberty to put into practice the knowledge which you have acquired.

During your college career, it has been the earnest endeavor of each of your professors, to impart to you as thorough a knowledge of your profession as time and circumstances would permit; and the high standing which some of you have obtained in the examinations through which you have just past is an evidence that their efforts have not been in vain. And believe me, gentlemen, when I tell you, that your professors will follow your future course through life with an anxious interest, as the success of our graduates will determine the continued success of our college.

It has been said that to begin right is half the battle. I wish therefore to give you a few hints upon the subject of *medical ethics*, with which it is the duty of every physician to familiarize himself at the very beginning of his professional career, and never under any circumstances to violate

them when brought in contact with members of the regular profession.

A physician should ever be ready to obey the calls of the sick, and his mind should be endued with the greatness of his mission and the responsibility he ever incurs in its discharge. He should therefore reflect upon the importance of his office, remembering that the ease, health and perhaps the lives of his patients are dependent upon his attention, fidelity and skill. And in his department he should study to unite tenderness with firmness, and condescension with authority, so as to inspire the minds of his patients with respect, confidence and gratitude.

Every case committed to his care should be treated with attention and humanity, reasonable allowance being made for the mental weakness and caprices of the sick. The familiar and confidential intercourse to which the physician is admitted in his professional visits should be used with discretion; and the strictest regard to fidelity and honor. And none of the privacies of personal or domestic life should ever be divulged, even after his professional services have ceased. This rule, however, does not apply in cases of smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or other contagious or infectious diseases, which he is compelled by law to report to the Sanitary Authorities.

The physician should visit his patients frequently, in order that he may gain a perfect knowledge of their diseases, and be able to meet promptly any change or complication that may arise; he will thus secure the confidence of his patients. Too frequent visiting should, however, be avoided, as they may lay the physician open to the suspicion of interested motives.