

Your conduct in every day life will be narrowly scrutinised, and what in other men would be passed over as a foible, or error in judgment, will in you be censured as a crime. A physician is expected to be grave, serious, thoughtful, as though he were ever dealing with the grim messenger—this, I need hardly tell you, is too much to expect, but there is a wide difference between cheerfulness and levity. Endeavour, therefore, so to conduct your walk through life, that at its close you will be remembered with affection and esteem. Let your life be pure, simple, spotless—ever ready to promote a good work of benevolence in connexion with your profession, so that at the end you may reasonably expect the approbation of your fellow men, and look forward with hope for a reward beyond the grave.

The physician is a very intimate friend in a family, and is often the custodian of family secrets; how necessary, then, for him to be silent and reserved. The world is full of littleness, but, in this respect, the medical man should take a high and honourable stand. Bacon held “every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour, themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto.”

At the outset of your career you will have many temptations, which, if yielded to, lead into the vortex of unsatisfying pleasures. Life is all too short to be frittered away in vanity; time lost can never be recalled, and you will bitterly regret, if, after years spent in frivolity, you arrive at that period when the mental energies are failing, without having availed yourselves of the world's advance. Be therefore no laggards—persevere from the very outset—acquire habits of regularity and industry—so will you experience a measure of satisfaction at the end of each day's toil, and at life's close feel that your career has not been objectless.