

Without them you can never be *thorough*; and thoroughness is certainly of the highest importance in a profession, the great mission of which is to conserve human life.

Thirdly :—That it requires its members to manifest the purest and most unselfish heroism. Men have been long accustomed to associate all ideas of heroism with exhibitions of mere animal courage. To plunge recklessly into the *mêlée* of deadly strife, and, amid the maddening excitements of roar of cannon, charge of cavalry, shouts of contention, and groans of the dying, to perform prodigies of valour by freely destroying human life, is to manifest qualities which nations and individuals delight to honour in their possessor. Thanks from the associated wisdom of a grateful nation, the highest titles and positions in the land, public ovations and a name in history, have been always freely awarded to the successful military hero. Philosophers and philanthropists, the men of mind and men of heart, have in all ages, however, recognized a species of heroism of vastly higher character, but which the public generally have held in light esteem. This heroism is not demonstrative; it has no bold and glaring points to arrest the attention of the beholder; it does not dazzle his eyes by its brilliancy; it is not accompanied by pomp and parade, the sound of the trumpet, the martial roll of the drum, the neighing of the war horse; it is not clamorous for distinction, is not heard afar off, nor does it boldly intrude on the notice. Quietly, unobtrusively and perseveringly it pursues its course. Of such nature is that heroism which the physician is so often called upon to exhibit. When death stalks abroad in the land; when the pestilential breath of a fatal epidemic breathes destruction in every household; when the wail of bereaved ones strikes fearfully on the ear; when the hearts of strong men, who would in time of excitement rush even to the cannon's mouth, fail them, and terror is depicted on every countenance, who is it that remains calm and unmoved amid all the dread and turmoil, that speaks words of encouragement and comfort to the fearful and downcast, that with a moral courage that shrinks not, and a high sense of duty, toils day and night to relieve suffering humanity? Who is it, in a word, that takes his life in his hand, and when friends and relatives even forsake the couch of the plague-stricken one, fearlessly attends to his every want? Who? The