

friends, thanking their benefactors, and exchanging with each other their old students, and the Governors of the University, mutual congratulations and good wishes.

The beginning of a new session, the entrance on a new course of lectures, is always an event of great interest to professors and students. The chief interest attached to this period of the University year is due to the fact that it marks the advent of a new class of students. No introductory lecture, therefore, is worthy of the name that does not contain what might be termed its "Freshman's Corner." Herbert Spencer, according to his cold, logical, and scientific ideas of things, would regard you young gentlemen as social units in an embryonic condition. He correctly points out that all social as well as biological advancement is a progress from the general to the particular, a specialization. As your seniors in medicine know well, all embryos, at a certain period in their existence, are more or less alike, and biologists are not able to tell whether a given specimen embryo, at an early period, will become a sheep or a goat, a monkey or a whale. It is only later, when the limbs appear and the head becomes shaped, and we see how it is to go through the world, that it becomes easy to tell what manner of creature it intends to be. Similarly, as boys we were all more or less alike, and though past the boyhood stage, you, for instance, still possess many general but useless characteristics, which you have in common with young lawyers, curates and business men; but now that you are about to differentiate into physicians and surgeons, you must allow those useless appendages of your mind and character to atrophy and disappear from disuse, and develop, by calling them into special activity, your powers of reason and observation and knowledge of humanity in sickness and in health, in order that you may become adapted in the kind of your intelligence to your future environment; that is, to drop the metaphor, you have deliberately and fully chosen medicine as your profession. The world demands, at any price, men that are absolutely fitted to their position. You should, therefore, cultivate in every detail those qualities of mind, of person, and of manner, that will enable you to fill the place that the world reserves for the great physician. Your curriculum of study will not do all this for you. Much must be acquired by personal observation and thought.