

of human life. I have always felt that when persons ignorant of the structure and functions of the body, of the nature and symptoms of disease, and of the appropriate use of remedies, venture to prescribe for the sick, they incur not a grave responsibility simply, but commit an inexcusable crime against the life of the individual. If owing to such ignorant interference, the employment of a competent person be prevented, or a directly noxious thing be administered, and death results, what then? May not such a crime be properly designated culpable homicide?

As physicians then, who shall have to answer before an Omniscient tribunal for the lives entrusted to you, spare no pains to ascertain the nature of the ailments you may be called to treat, and to acquaint yourselves with the most approved means of combating and alleviating them.

For the first few years of your career, most if not all of you, will have much time not occupied with practice. Those years should be highly prized as affording the opportunity of enlarging your knowledge; and your future status in the profession, will depend very largely upon the manner in which you spend those early years—years of struggling and poverty they may be, of self culture, persevering study, and hopeful expectation they ought to be. Having then no more examinations before you, and having laid a good foundation of elementary knowledge, you should in future devote much of your time to the study of the great Masters of the past and present. Amongst treatises upon the general doctrines of morbid action, I know of none which will so much enrich your minds as John Hunter's works, Paget's "Surgical" and Virchow's "Cellular Pathology," and Williams' "Principles of Medicine." Would you study faithful records of disease as it presents itself at the bed side, learn its multiform phases, its perplexing combinations, its exceptional as well as its ordinary characters; would you learn how to modify your treatment according to the type of the disease, the habits, constitution and surroundings of the patient, pore over the graphic "lectures" of Graves, Todd, Trousseau, Brodie, Latham, Nelaton, Hilton, and peruse the suggestive cases related by Cruveilhier in his "Anatomie Pathologique" and by Bright in his "Reports of Medical cases." Then there are works upon diseases of particular organs and upon special departments of medicine, which you will do well to study during those early years of comparative leisure. Such are Brown-Sequard's, and Hanfield Jones' writings upon the nervous system; Stokes and Walshe on the heart; Fuller and Walshe on the lungs; Frerichs and Murchison, on the liver; Dickinson, Roberts and Thompson, on the renal organs and appendages; Barthez et Rillie; West and Hillier, on the diseases of children; Simpson and Graily Hewitt, upon the diseases of women; Wecker or Bader or Soelberg Wells, upon the eye; and Parkes, upon Hygiene.