

our work is not altogether paid labour, and not wholly work without pay. In both are chances which, rightly used, make the good better, the wise wiser; and there are many sides to it all.

I do not like to leave this subject without a living illustration. It is strange and interesting to see what our life does with different kinds of men

I once went through a hospital ward in France watching the work of a great clinical teacher, long gray in the service of the sick. It was as pretty and gracious a thing as one could see. The examinations were swift, the questions few and ready. Clearly, he liked his work. A kindly word fell now and then; faces lit up as he came near. Now and then he answered a patient gravely and simply where there was real reason to do so, and twice I observed that when he did this he sat down, as if in no haste—a nice trait of gentle manners. It was a ward of women, and he was very modest—a too rare thing in French hospitals in my student days. When he went away his interne told me that he had been very sharp with him for a piece of neglect, “but,” said the doctor, “he never says a word of blame at the bedside.” In fact, this great physician was a gentleman—a much abused word—but think what that may fully mean; a man in the highest sense of manhood—so gentle (good old English word) that every little or large act of duty or social conduct is made gracious and beautiful because of the way of doing it.

I saw a week later a great French surgeon in his clinic of women. The man was as swift and as skilful as could be. He was also ill-tempered, profane, abrupt, and brutally immodest—a strong, rough, coarse machine; and this was what the medical life had done with two men. With less intellect this rude nature must have altogether failed of success in life. He did not fail being a man of overwhelming force and really admirable mental organization; and so when you read of Abernethy's roughness and the like, pray understand that such great men as he win despite bad manners, and not because of them. There is no place where good breeding and social tact—in a word, habitual good manners—are so much in place as at the bedside or in the ward. When Sir Henry Sidney wrote a letter of advice to his son—the greater Sidney, Sir Philip—he said, “Have good manners for men of

all ranks; there is no coin which buyeth so much at small cost.”

A clever woman of the world once said to me: “I sent for Dr. A. yesterday, and by mistake the servant left the message with Dr. B. He came at once, and really he was so well-mannered and pleasant that I quite forgot what a fool he is.”

I know men who have had large success in practice chiefly because of their gentleness and sweetness in all the relations of life. I know of far more able men who have found life hard and the winning of practice difficult simply because they lacked good manners or wanted tact. We began about the poor, and here we are discussing manners. I had not meant to say of it so much, but, on the whole, I am not sorry. Pray remember, finally, that neatness of dress and the extreme of personal cleanliness are, shall I say, a sort of physical good manners, and now-a-days the last words of science are enforcing these as essential to surgical success.

There is a wise proverb of the east, “He who holds his tongue for a minute is wise with the wisdom of all time.” I am fond of proverbs, and this is full of meaning, for really to refrain from instant speech when irritated is victory. An hour later you are sure to be silent enough. The temptation to speech is momentary. Above all, try not to talk of your patients—even with doctors. It is usually a bore to be told of cases and we only stand it because we expect our own boring to be, in turn, endured. But my ideal doctor who reads, thinks, and has a hobby will not need to gossip about patients. He will have, I trust, nobler subjects of conversation. When I hear a young man talk cases or read them in societies with heavy detail of unimportant symptoms I feel like saying of him, as was once said in my presence of one who amply justified the prediction, “That man has a remarkably fine foundation for dulness in after life.”

The methods of note-taking you are well taught, and, too, I hope, the best ways of examining your cases. As to this, circumstances must guide you. A patient is often a bad witness, and one man gets at the truth of his case—another does not.

As to acute cases, it is immensely valuable to learn through concentration of attention to be rapid without omissions. Dr. Edward Dalton is quoted as saying to his class, “After careful and repeated auscultation, percussion, palpation, and even suc-