

not many years your elder, that the proper and judicious application of your time is absolutely necessary for the attainment of your profession.

Though by many at the outset thought interminable, the period of preparatory study, it is in fact short enough. Possessed of this false idea of quantity in time, too many fritter away their opportunities in idle or useless occupations in quality of study. You must then, Gentlemen, from the beginning, have a *will*, not manifestation, but the very function of it, to learn, and a mind prepared for every exertion. From the first step you should arrange and classify what you read, so that you may at any moment touch, as it were, anything you may be called on to remember; for method and the habit of analysing, like the discipline of modern warfare, diminish in a great measure the inequalities of the mental powers, and assist in levelling on the intellectual field the giant and the dwarf. You are to be diligent and patient, too. You must not conceive that at once, and without effort, you can grasp all that will be presented to you; we are not all as Samuel Johnson, of whom it has been written, that he could seize whole libraries: no medical man ever acquired his profession by intuition—his is not the realm of imagination; and of him it may with truth be said, "*Medicus fit non nascitur.*" Injudiciously selecting your course of studies imperfectly acquiring its facts and forming crude and false theories will never render you able to pass even a mediocre examination, much less to practise with ordinary success. To one entering the threshold of science there is, I allow, something peculiarly attractive in hypothesis; it seems the mark of genius, and as such, commands our admiration and respect, but a persevering taste for hypothesis marks a frivolous rather than a vigorous intellect. If you inquire into the histories of those men who have been eminent in our profession, who have made for themselves a deathless renown, who may, too, with justice be regarded as benefactors of the human family, you will discover that they never wasted their energies upon trifling and useless speculations; their aim was the acquisition of truth, the imparting of real and intrinsic instruction, not mere light and fleeting amusement. It is legitimate in the poet to stray from the beaten track, to gather into his garner from every quarter, as far as the east stretches from the west; he is free of restraint; but from our science you must from the first exclude all fancy, all caprice, and be solely guided by the sober search after truth.

As the study of your profession virtually begins after your examination, so in my conception, your general education should not be neglected as soon as you open a medical book; on the contrary, you should daily devote an hour or two to the perusal of the literature of your own language, and by no means omit keeping up, or forming an acquaintance with the Greek and Roman tongues: these, which have been termed the dead languages, are far from being inert or dead matter; the authors of Greece and Rome most read, are indeed gone, their acts and earthly career may be numbered with those of the departed, yet their writings—and their opinions, which may be considered their angel parts—live and hover round us in their spirit. Independently of the refreshing enjoyment to be derived from the perusal of Greek and Latin, the study of these languages engenders a habit of quiet industry and research so necessary in the prosecution of any science; and by even a slight acquaintance with them we more readily comprehend Medical Nomenclature, and, understanding it, more easily retain it. Acquire information of every description, and from every source; the range of mental acquirements appertaining to medicine is almost unlimited—"Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, and sermons in stones"—make for yourselves storehouses of knowledge, whence you may in need draw benefit and pleasure; let everything you do conduce to the great end, the making yourselves more scientific and truly educated men. This active and inquiring condition of the mind, always on the alert for something new and useful, is diametrically opposed to the habit of irregular and desultory application—to the day dreams of the trifler: tossed upon an ocean of science without helm or guiding star he can never reach the shore, or, if some wave, some chance throw him floundering on the beach,