

take responsibilities the nature of which time only will reveal to you. Heretofore you had the guidance of your professors to direct your thoughts, but for the future you will have to rely altogether on your own judgment. It has been our endeavor to impart instruction to you of such a nature and in such a manner as may best fit you for the noble pursuit you have chosen. The subject of your past studies is one about which you need have no misgivings—Man, the noblest of God's creation. No nobler, no more benevolent mission can engross the mind of man than that upon which you now practically enter. You go forth armed with that knowledge which, judiciously used, will enable you to protect and prolong life. Your duties will be, not only to alleviate human suffering, but also to endeavor to find out the causes of the many preventive diseases and to direct measures for their suppression. You will thus be enabled to prevent what you might be powerless to cure.

Formerly the term "healing art" embodied the whole of our duties as physicians, but now-a-days the science of medicine embraces a much wider sphere. It is no longer simply an art directed to the alleviation or cure of human suffering—that is only a part of our duties. A very great proportion of this suffering can be prevented. It is estimated that about 75,000 or 80,000 people die every day, of whom at least 20,000 die from preventible diseases. In this city alone, quite 1,500 people die every year from causes that are remediable. It is impossible to separate your powers from your responsibilities. Constantly bear in mind the grave nature of your duties, and, if you do, I feel satisfied you will be animated by an honest determination to discharge them. It will not be sufficient that you bring to your patients your intellect only—your heart must be in the work.

Love of truth, love of duty for its own sake, with the self-denial, the patience, the moral intrepidity they involve, sufficed in times past to carry men of even moderate abilities to scientific eminence and professional usefulness, though the path was by no means so straight, by no means so level, as now; but if these qualities should be lacking in any of you, not all the facilities which modern science can devise will raise you above mediocrity. Of course you cannot all be first. Illustrious talents, like illustrious birth, are the property of the few. There are giants in intellect as there are giants in stature and strength, but any young man, possessed of ordinary faculties, exercised with vigilance and in an honest, indepen-

dent, inquiring spirit, is certain of some measure of success.

It will be absolutely necessary that you should not consider your student days are ended, for really they are not. They can cease only when you retire from your professional practice, and, judging from the past history of our profession, I do not think many of you will do that until you "shuffle off this mortal coil."

Our profession is so markedly progressive, in such a constant state of rapid transition and development, that if you would advance your art, or even keep level with the age, you must be open to receive knowledge by every avenue: discard no therapeutical suggestion as too chemical; ignore no pathological inquiry, however minute and apparently impractical, which may throw light on the nature of disease; do not despise as new-fangled or superfine any appliance which may help to make diagnosis exact.

Medicine, like many other professional paths of life, possesses its quicksands. Those against which I now especially warn you are "efforts of Nature," "expectant medicine" and "alcohol." To the different types or races of men nature is beneficent, but to the individual she is merciless, and it is with the individual that the physician has to do. Will the mother resign to the grave her cross-grained deformed first-born because it would be better for the race, nay, better for her own immediate kin, that the family should be continued by his younger brother? Many a cumberer of the ground, when laid on a sick bed, feels that, so far from his being missed, his place will be more worthily filled up, after sundry efforts of Nature for the good of mankind have been successful, yet he elects to stay. Many a patient knows that science would be immensely enlightened by a sight of his remains, but he had rather not. Before we assist efforts of Nature we must have evidence that their end is not our extinction, not a capital punishment for neglecting to use our reason. However well intentioned, Nature is not always beneficent, and it is fortunate that we can sometimes cut short or change the tenor of her performances. Timely digitalis may give a new lease of life to the owner of a damaged valve—timely administration of salicylic acid may save the valve; so that, in very many ailments, instead of assisting Nature in her not very amiable endeavours, you will deliberately discountenance her.

"Expectant Medicine" is simply a disbelief in the utility of all interference. A young practitioner hears his elders point out the harm done by some