

the foundation, and must continue to place upon it bricks or stones in the shape of new facts and ideas, and cement them firmly with the mortar of reflection and experience. When practitioners cease to be students, they usually begin to fall out of the line of march, and they cannot hope to occupy the front ranks.

Do you ask what studies are we to pursue? First, practical ones, as contained in nature's book. Hitherto your teachers have been interpreters of nature for you. In future, you must converse with her and translate her language, and study her features for yourselves. Let every patient you see in the private chamber or in the hospital ward be a subject of the closest study. Test the teachings of your masters on living specimens of disease, and if exact and patient in your investigations, you will frequently confirm those teachings, many times refute them, and more frequently enlarge them. But, remember, nature is a jealous and coy maiden. If you would find out her secrets and gain her confidence, you must be devoted as well as constant suitors. No sacrifice of time or money, or pleasure or personal comfort must be considered too great in her service.

In recording what you have observed in nature's book, be painstaking, accurate, and truthful. Neither exaggerate nor extenuate. It is to be feared that many gross errors and numerous obstacles to the advance of the science and practice of medicine have arisen from careless and imperfect observation and untruthful recording of facts. Beware of supporting a pet theory by biassed observation. Study, also, the *writings* of authorities in medical and its collateral sciences. Lay aside mere text-books and read for yourselves the originals, whence the often heterogeneous and not unfrequently incongruous aggregations of facts and opinions contained in such books have been taken. The works of Sydenham, John Hunter, Alison, Paget, Billroth and Bright, of Latham, Stokes, Simon, Jaccoud, Niemeyer, and Charcot, and treatises upon special subjects, may now replace your *vade-mecums* and text-books. These and others of their class should now be carefully read. In the earlier years of your career you will have ample time for reading. Do it systematically—observe some plan. Mark out special subjects for serious study.