

your weaknesses. I can offer no better welcome than to tell you this. I see among you many with whose faces we are all familiar, who return, and not for the first time, to these benches. To such, words of welcome are superfluous; I will only say we rejoice to see you back, we trust with refreshed bodies and invigorated minds, to pursue the work of the session. To those of you who for the first time occupy seats in this class-room the occasion is a memorable one, to which I trust you will look back in after years with exceeding pleasure as the starting point of a career of usefulness and honour. For you we have a special sympathy. Look upon us as elder brothers to whom you can come confidently and fearlessly for advice in any trouble or difficulty.

On such an occasion as the present it is natural that you should expect to hear from me something about the profession of your choice, its position, the prospects it holds out to you, and the relation that you as students bear to it. Probably there are few among you who could give a very logical explanation of the causes which induced you to adopt this in preference to other callings; with one it has been the influence of a friend; with another, perhaps, hereditary predisposition; with a third a sudden inspiration; with another that innate enthusiasm for the science which is akin to the natural gift that makes of one man an artist, of another a musician; an inborn natural fitness for that special work and no other, which the man's surroundings, whether fostering or adverse, can neither give nor take away. From these last arise our greatest men; for others it matters little in what way the impulse has come, so long as the feeling now thoroughly possesses you, penetrating every fibre of your being, that this above all others, is the profession you can most heartily embrace. If, however, any man of you here enters upon it with the idea that it will do as well as another, that other will most probably be better for you. Lukewarmness, bad enough at any time, is simply fatal at the beginning of a life-long career, when it usurps the place of that enthusiasm that should bend the man's whole nature to serve him willingly in the work that he has chosen.