

Gentlemen, I must congratulate you on the prospects that loom up, to my eye clearly, before your chosen profession. Such is the progress of biology and allied branches, as chemistry, that within the next two decades, and certainly well within your lifetime, Medicine must be so transformed in every respect, and especially as a science, as to be scarcely recognizable. I have often thought that one of the best realizations that our profession could experience is the slight degree to which medicine has been a science at all until within the last ten years. And even as yet, witness the isolation of the various subjects in a medical curriculum, and the consequently increased difficulty in learning and the loss of energy from disconnected thinking which lasts beyond student-life and handicaps the practitioner all his days. Older literature is fast becoming shelved. The principles of Biology, vitalized by the great doctrines of organic evolution, will surely—let us hope speedily—like a ferment transform the whole. At present you hear little of biological principles outside of one or two lecture-rooms; but in less than twenty years they will dominate the teaching in every department, not excepting the hospital ward. Nor will it be in the form of crude, unverified statements, but as accurately ascertained facts. From what a height the teacher and practitioner of that day will survey the vast field! How much easier his classification of facts, how broad and how clear his principles!

I congratulate you on that unification and correlation which is taking place, notwithstanding old prejudices, in the different departments of medicine. Dental surgery and comparative, so-called, veterinary medicine, are being carried along on that same wave of progress on whose crest human medicine is riding. Until men perceived that disease was not an entity but a condition, varying with the organism affected, it was impossible to see the connection between the different branches of the science or to understand that as nature is one so must all science, including Medicine, when complete, be one. The dental and the veterinary surgeon and the practitioner of human medicine should no longer stand apart. The claims alike of science, our speechless companions and fellow-creatures the lower animals,