

consolation; when chemistry distresses your soul, seek peace in the great pacifier, Shakespeare; and when the complications of pharmacology are unbearable, ten minutes with Montaigne will lighten the burden. To the writings of one old physician I can urge your closest attention. There have been, and, happily, there are still in our ranks notable illustrations of the intimate relations between medicine and literature, but in the group of literary physicians Sir Thomas Browne stands preëminent. The *Religio Medici*, one of the great English classics, should be in the hands—in the hearts too—of every medical student. As I am on the confessional to-day, I may tell you that no book has had so enduring an influence on my life. I was introduced to it by my first teacher, the Rev. W. A. Johnson, Warden and Founder of the Trinity College School, and I can recall the delight with which I first read its quaint and charming pages. It was one of the strong influences which turned my thoughts towards medicine as a profession, and my most treasured copy—the second book I ever bought—has been a constant companion for thirty-one years,—comes *vixæ vitæque*.* Trite but true, is the comment of Seneca—"If you are fond of books you will escape the ennui of life, you will neither sigh for evening disgusted with the occupations of the day—nor will you live dissatisfied with yourself or unprofitable to others."

And, finally, gentlemen, remember that you are here not to be made chemists or physiologists or anatomists but to learn how to recognize and treat disease, how to become practical physicians. Twenty years ago, during the summer session, I held my first class in clinical medicine at the Montreal General Hospital, and on the title page of a note book I had printed for the students I placed the following sentence, which you will find the alpha and omega of education in practical medicine.

"The knowledge which a man can use is the only real knowledge, the only knowledge which has life and growth in it and converts itself into practical power. The rest hangs like dust about the brain or dries like rain drops off the stones."

* There are two excellent editions of the *Religio Medici* available, the one in the Golden Treasury Series, MacMillan & Co., edited by the late Dr. W. A. Greenhill, the other edited by Dr. D. Lloyd Roberts, of Manchester, Smith, Elder & Co., London.

A movement is on foot to erect a memorial to Sir Thomas Browne in his native city, Norwich, subscriptions towards which will be received by Sir Peter Eade, Norwich.