

for there is no day of a man's life, there is no period of his activity, in which if his mind is alive, if he keeps his ears and eyes open to impressions and observations, he will not continually be adding to the stock of his ideas and of his thoughts, and in which he will not add to the store of his knowledge, and increase the amount of his information."

The science of the Medical art in all its branches is ever progressive, and rapidly expanding, particularly in our own time. To keep thoroughly abreast of the professional literature which is constantly pouring forth from the press will tax all your energies, and even draw heavily upon your finances; but you will be rewarded by the feeling that your labors and expenses are bestowed on a laudable object, namely, a desire to win success in the path of life that you have chosen, accompanied by the ability which you will exercise of alleviating the sufferings of humanity, and winning the respect and gratitude of your less scientific clients. At the same time it may not be amiss to warn you all against displaying on any occasion an affectation of *knowledge*, inscrutable to all except the adepts of Medical science, an air of perfect confidence in your own skill and abilities, or a demeanor too highly expressive of self-sufficiency. Such conduct cannot escape the censure of the more judicious or elude the ridicule of men of wit. Dr. Pillgarlic has often been humorously exhibited on the stage, but the satire is really directed against the habits and notions of *individuals*, and not against *genuine* medical science.

The practice of the healing art affords a vast field for the exercise of humanity. To a benevolent man this must be one of the greatest pleasures. Physicians and surgeons have many opportunities of displaying patience, compassion, generosity, and all the gentler virtues that do honor to human nature. A man endowed with these qualities diffuses consolation and comfort; he employs his talents, his time, and *occasionally* his *purse*, in relieving misery; and with a pride which I will not attempt to disguise I may be allowed to add that no other class of citizens perform their duty with as much zeal and courage as the members of the "Essential Profession." If fortunately a young man possesses positive medical *genius*, he nevertheless needs talents of an entirely different kind; he not only has the improvement of his own mind to attend to as his career develops, but he must study the temper, and struggle with the occasional prejudices of his patients and of the world in general. A physician must therefore have a large share of common sense and knowledge of the world, as well as medical skill and learning, or he will never become what that world designates as a *successful practitioner*.