

you can aid in shaping this legislation to what it should be, for in this respect knowledge is power. If you leave the matter to sentimental enthusiasts and professional office-seekers, you will find that it will turn out like the Irishman's ale—it will thicken as it clears. One of the matters just alluded to touches your professional work very nearly, and that is the adulteration of drugs. If you practice in a large city, this is not of so much importance, since you can always readily find first-class pharmacists, upon whose preparations you can rely, but away from the great centres, the case is different. Unless you can depend upon getting what you call for in your prescription, what success can you hope for? and yet unless you know what apothecary is to fill that prescription you cannot rely upon it. And it is always wise not to conclude that your treatment has failed until you have made sure that what you have ordered has really been given.

And in this immediate connection, permit me to remind you why the hyrax has no tail. It is written in the mystic volume of St. Nicholas that when the world was about being completed, notice was issued to all the beasts that, if they would go to the Court of the King on a certain day, they would be handsomely finished off with tails. All were pleased with the prospect, but the hyrax was especially delighted. Now when the appointed day came, it was cold and rainy, and the hyrax did not like to go out in bad weather. So he stood in his door and asked the lion and the wolf and several others to bring him his tail, and they all promised to attend to it. But they all forgot it; and when the hyrax went himself the next day to see about it, he found that the supply of tails was exhausted. That is why the hyrax has no tail, and if you rely on what other people tell you what they have done, or are going to do for you, the result will probably be about the same.

And just here permit me to give you an entirely new bit of advice; at least, I did not find it in any of the valedictories I read. You will, of course, never ask a man who is not acquainted with you personally to give you recommendations or testimonials; but see to it that you yourselves never sign a recommenda-

tion for a man whom you do not know. Do not be persuaded or bullied into doing this by people whom you know, for people whom they know, but you do not. If you wish your name and opinion to have any value in the eyes of other people, respect them yourself.

Do not be in a hurry to write or teach. The American press has been said to be chronically premature, and the same may be said of a good many graduates—not, of course, of this school, but of some other schools; and not only in this country, but in other countries. There are a great number of men, in all professions, and in all parts of the world, of whom it may be truly said, that if they knew more they would say less. Try to know something of all branches of science, for they all throw light upon your work; and at the same time try in some one branch of your own special field of study to know more than anybody else, and to be sure that you really do know it. This is not so difficult as it may seem. You will not have to go far in any direction before you will come upon that which is doubtful or unknown—questions which as yet have no answers. And if, during your pupillage, you have learned to think, and are not, as Holmes phrases it, merely “phonographs on legs,” the rest is a mere matter of detail, and this advice is not difficult to follow. Hesiod said that in his day there were three kinds of men—those who understand things of themselves, those who understand things when they are explained to them, and those who neither understand things of themselves nor when they are explained to them. That was the classification in Greece over two thousand years ago, but it is a convenient one for use even now; and when a man has settled for himself to which class he belongs, his education has taken a long stride.

Each of you has his aspirations—a little vague, no doubt, but none the less real. Keep them as long as possible, and above all things, do not assume or affect a cynicism which belongs neither to your age nor to your experience. Second-hand misanthropy is like a second-hand Chatham Street coat: it never fits. No doubt you all desire to make money; not for the money's sake, but for what you can do with it. It is not a desire to be ashamed