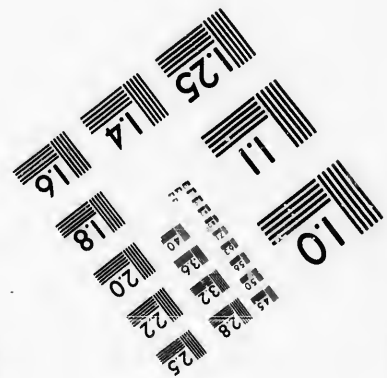
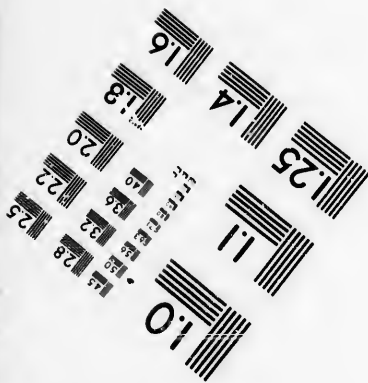
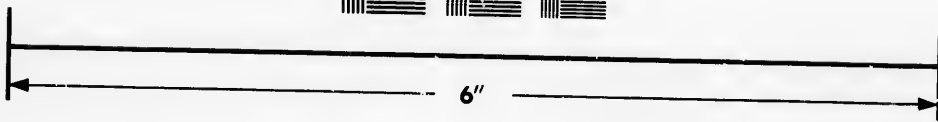
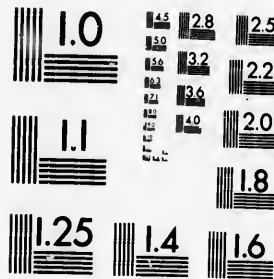


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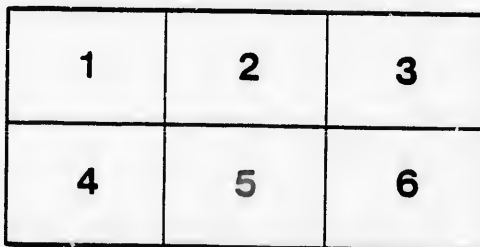
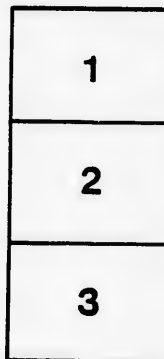
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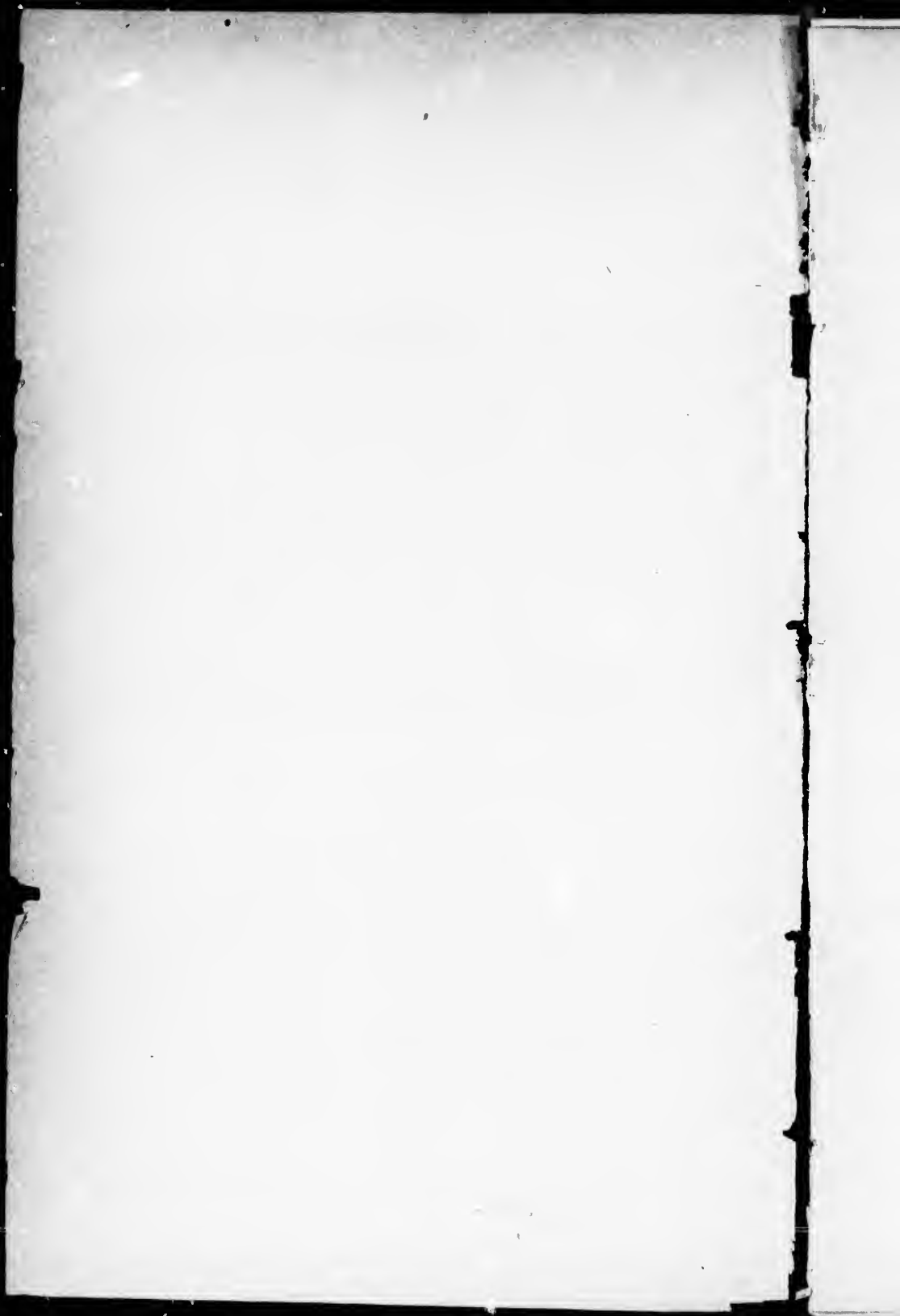
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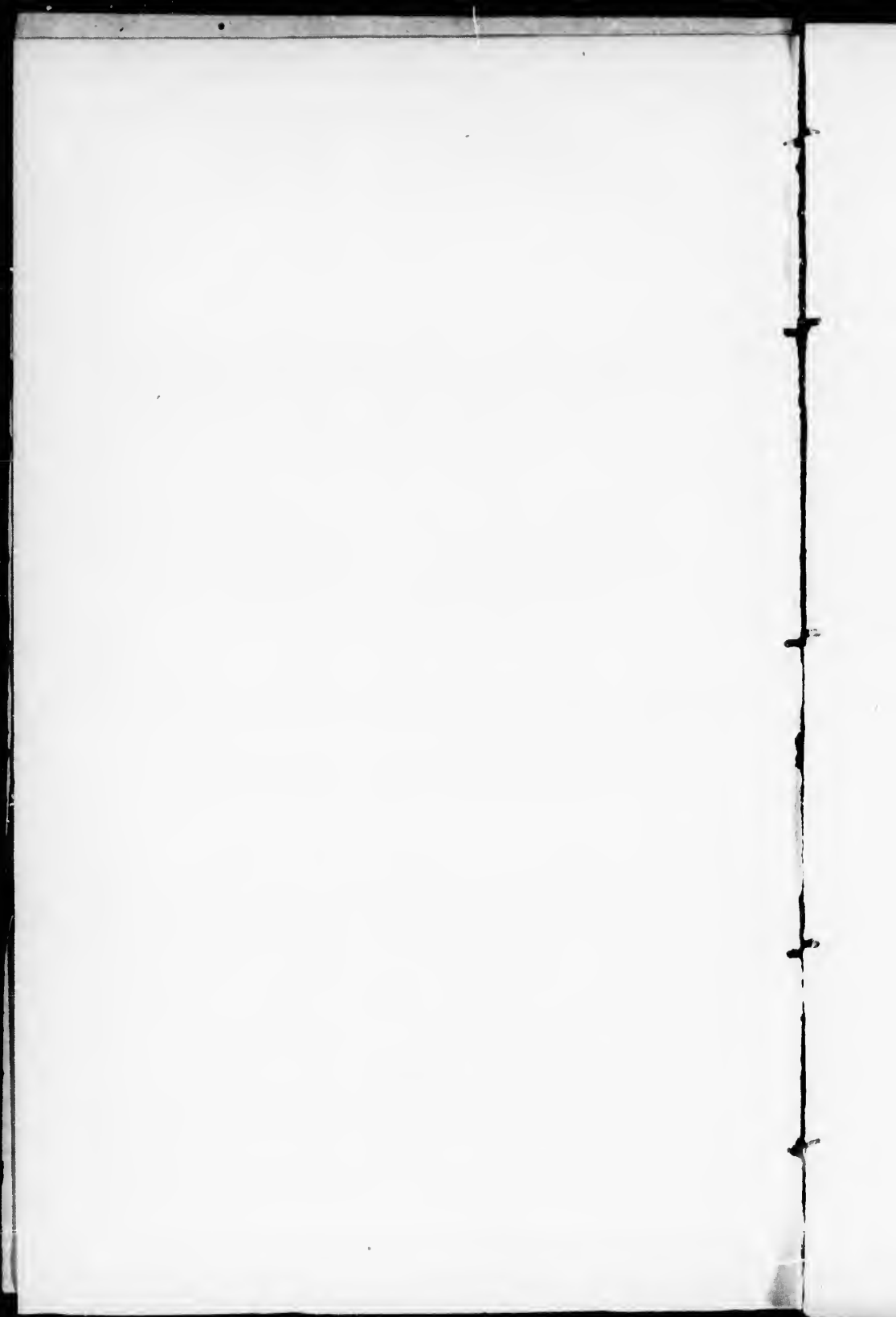
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Valedictory Address.

GENTLEMEN, GRADUATES IN MEDICINE:—"The winning of honour," says Bacon, "is but the revealing of a man's virtue and worth, without disadvantage."

The honour which, for a period of four years, you have manfully striven for and at length creditably won, and which has this day been conferred upon you, is one that demands, on the part of those who would successfully aspire to it, the manifestation of qualities, both mental and moral, of no common order. Your success, therefore, reveals to your friends and to society at large that you do possess those intellectual qualities, that virtue and worth which, if you continue to exercise them in future as you have hitherto, will certainly succeed in winning for you the esteem of honourable men, and make you useful members of the profession of your choice.

Of all the modes in which men employ their time and energies, there are few more elevated in their aims or more beneficial to mankind than the practice of the healing art. We may say, in truth, that there is but one other profession which excels that of the human healer: and it does so, simply because it has for its object the present culture and well-being, and the future safety and happiness of man's undying self. One of the greatest and most original thinkers of the present day, however, places Medicine above all other professions: thus, Carlyle, in his "Latter-day Pamphlets," observes, that "the profession of the human healer is radically a sacred one and connected with the highest priest.

hoods, or rather being itself the out-come and acme of all priesthoods and divinest conquests of intellect here below."

The great object of Medicine is to combat disease, and what does this signify?

Firstly :—That it is a profession which requires its members to be furnished with knowledge of the most extensive and recondite character. They must know the physical man thoroughly, the wonderful intricacies of his intimate structure, and the marvellously complex processes that are being carried on in every part of his organism. They must have studied also man's mental constitution, and be able to recognize the presence and estimate the value of mental influences in life processes and their derangements. The infinite variety of the causes of disease, whether existing in man himself, in the air he breathes, the food he eats, the water he drinks, the textures with which he clothes himself, or in the earth upon which he walks, must be familiar to them. They must have a perfect acquaintance with the physiognomy of disease and the traits and characters by which it reveals its presence. They must know, also, the means which a Beneficent Providence has placed within their reach for the removal of disease, and the restoration of the aberrant functions to their normal condition; and which means have been discovered, elaborated and perfected, by the research, perseverance and ingenuity of man himself. Much of this knowledge you have already acquired, but the fund is practically inexhaustible, and were you to live beyond the time allotted to man, and devote every spare moment to close research and study, you would only appreciate the more clearly how limited any one individual's acquirements and experience must be in a liberal profession with the multiplied actualities and infinite possibilities of medicine.

Secondly :—That it is a profession which demands from its members the greatest devotion and self-denial. Duty is frequently a strait and rugged road. Pleasant indeed are the by-paths of leisure and amusement, and especially tempting are the cool retreats of listless indifference. The man struggling forward in his life journey, often fretted and wearied with the difficulties that beset him in the prosecution of his aims and aspirations, would fain turn aside and seek relief in the levity of the one, or in the stagnation of the other. Let him yield to

the temptation, however, and no matter how fair may have been his prospects of success at the commencement of his career, no matter how richly he may have been endowed with natural gifts, failure, miserable and dishonouring failure, is inevitable. Success in any of the great objects of life is not to the idler, the trifler or dreamer. It comes not in obedience to a wish, and cannot be acquired by a waking dream. In this active and restless period of the world's history, a man, to succeed, must be up and doing. He must apply himself with singleness of purpose to do his duty in whatever he undertakes, undeterred by the obstacles which may obstruct his way, and which often appear to be insurmountable until they encounter and go down before a resolute and unyielding will. The world is apt to measure a man's abilities by his successes, and although the rule by which it judges cannot be admitted as an infallible one, there are solid grounds on which this worldly decision rests. To be fortunate, as the term goes, is often the result simply of a knowledge of all the means necessary to attain to a certain object, and the prosecution of these with thorough devotedness. Cardinal Richelieu was wont to observe, that "unfortunate" and "imprudent" were two words for the same thing; and we may reasonably infer, therefore, that this distinguished and keen observer of human nature considered good fortune to be the result of prudent management; in other words, that success is the indication not only of the man's abilities but also of his command over and proper regulation and direction of these abilities.

In the profession of medicine, gentlemen, to become a successful healer of the sick, which should be the great and dominant desire of each one of you, there can be no trifling with duty. You have not attained the position in which you stand to-day without having learned the important fact, that there is no easy road to learning. The knowledge, scientific and practical, which you evinced during your recent examinations, and which has been the warranty of this University in conferring upon you the degree of Doctor in Medicine and Master of Surgery, has not come to you intuitively. It has been acquired by much hard work, by unremitting devotion to your studies, and the frequent practice of self-denial. Now, the same hard work, the same unremitting devotion to study, and the same practice of self-denial, will be as imperatively demanded when you go forth into the world and assume the responsibilities of practitioners of medicine.

Without them you can never be *thorough*; and thoroughness is certainly of the highest importance in a profession, the great mission of which is to conserve human life.

Thirdly:—That it requires its members to manifest the purest and most unselfish heroism. Men have been long accustomed to associate all ideas of heroism with exhibitions of mere animal courage. To plunge recklessly into the *mêlée* of deadly strife, and, amid the maddening excitements of roar of cannon, charge of cavalry, shouts of contention, and groans of the dying, to perform prodigies of valour by freely destroying human life, is to manifest qualities which nations and individuals delight to honour in their possessor. Thanks from the associated wisdom of a grateful nation, the highest titles and positions in the land, public ovations and a name in history, have been always freely awarded to the successful military hero. Philosophers and philanthropists, the men of mind and men of heart, have in all ages, however, recognized a species of heroism of vastly higher character, but which the public generally have held in light esteem. This heroism is not demonstrative; it has no bold and glaring points to arrest the attention of the beholder; it does not dazzle his eyes by its brilliancy; it is not accompanied by pomp and parade, the sound of the trumpet, the martial roll of the drum, the neighing of the war horse; it is not clamorous for distinction, is not heard afar off, nor does it boldly intrude on the notice. Quietly, unobtrusively and perseveringly it pursues its course. Of such nature is that heroism which the physician is so often called upon to exhibit. When death stalks abroad in the land; when the pestilential breath of a fatal epidemic breathes destruction in every household; when the wail of bereaved ones strikes fearfully on the ear; when the hearts of strong men, who would in time of excitement rush even to the cannon's mouth, fail them, and terror is depicted on every countenance, who is it that remains calm and unmoved amid all the dread and turmoil, that speaks words of encouragement and comfort to the fearful and downcast, that with a moral courage that shrinks not, and a high sense of duty, toils day and night to relieve suffering humanity? Who is it, in a word, that takes his life in his hand, and when friends and relatives even forsake the couch of the plague-stricken one, fearlessly attends to his every want? Who? The

devoted, heroic physician. The physician engaged in the duties of his profession during the prevalence of a fatal epidemic, is a noble sight, and one that might engage the attention and command the admiration of beings superior to man. How the people, leaning on his every word, eagerly scan his countenance and bless him for his unwearied care. Danger past, however, his arduous and benevolent efforts are all forgotten, and if, perchance, he should have fallen a victim to over-exertion, a martyr to a conscientious discharge of his duties, his very memory fades in a few brief days from the recollection of those whose lives he has saved. No monumental marble is reared to stand the record of a people's sorrow for his death; no "storied urn" tells of his acts of bravery and untimely end; the historian's pen hands not his name down to posterity. Such is the ingratitude of man and such is his estimate of *true heroism*. When occasion demands, gentlemen, that you should expose your lives for the purpose of giving relief to diseased and suffering humanity, I am confident that you will not be found wanting, and that the fearlessness with which at all times the members of your profession have confronted death in some of its most revolting forms will be emulated by each one of you. "He who gives himself to the study and work of medicine," says the great and good Sydenham, "ought seriously to ponder on this thing: that as he is himself not exempted from the common lot, and is liable and exposed to the same laws of mortality, the same miseries and pains as are all the rest, so he may endeavour the more diligently and with a more tender affection, as being himself a fellow sufferer, to help them who are sick."

In all your relations of life *be true and loyal*. Truth and loyalty are two great characteristics of the gentleman, by which term I do not mean the conventional gentleman, who may be defined simply, a unit of the male sex, well dressed and with nothing particular to do; but that man of sterling worth, who may be met with in every rank of life, whose heart vibrates towards truth as constantly and as naturally as the needle towards the north pole, to whom a mean and unworthy action is simply impossible because of his innate nobleness of character, and of whom it may be said in the truest sense of the terms *noblesse oblige*.

Be loyal to your Queen, to that wise and gracious Sovereign whom Providence has appointed to reign over us, and under whose benignant and constitutional sway the people of this mighty empire have enjoyed the blessings of a true and enlightened freedom. Who has endeared herself to her subjects by the eminent virtues which have adorned her character, and who has commanded the loving admiration and esteem of every good man and woman throughout the civilized world, and made the throne of Great Britain, glorious as in itself it is, still more glorious by her wifely and motherly devotion. May the Supreme Ruler of events spare Her Majesty's valuable life, in the words of the National Anthem—

“ Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.”

Be loyal to your country. You should acquaint yourselves with so much of the politics of your country as to be able at all times to take an intelligent part in public affairs. With questions relating to her material interests you need not concern yourselves more than members of the community generally, as there appear to be not a few with more leisure time, who are willing to attempt their solution, and to sacrifice themselves, as they are pleased to say, for the benefit of the country. What is more within your province, however, is to throw the whole weight of whatever influence you may possess in favour of every measure which has for its object the moral elevation of the community, and to aid in establishing laws, both local and general, for the preservation of health and the prevention of disease.

Whatever position these confederated provinces are destined to assume among the community of nations, I am certain that we, and those who follow us, will be always found to stand firmly by the old flag so long as it remains what it is at present—the emblem of free thought and free speech wherever it is unfurled, the banner of a constitution which protects its people alike from the tyranny of one, the tyranny of a few, or what De Toequeville correctly affirms to be the most intolerant of all tyrannies—the tyranny of the majority. We have the deepest affection and respect for the grand old historic Mother Country, the land of our fore-fathers, the cradle

of liberty, the nursery of nations, the hope of civilization, and the star of promise to the wise and silent watchers, who hold their souls in patience, and yearningly look for the advent of freedom to the down-trodden people of the earth. She has watched over and protected our infancy and youth, and now that she is about to throw aside the leading strings and, in our budding manhood, to let us try what there is of mettle in us, our hearts turn lovingly to the "old home." The relations between us may be altered, but we can neither forget our origin nor our obligations, and it is the dearest and most cherished wish of every loyal Canadian that this Dominion may always form one of the great British family circle. While, therefore, we work heart and hand, as becomes sons of the soil, to advance this our native country, let our motto be "Canadian progress and British connection."

Be loyal to your profession. The respect which will be accorded to the profession of medicine, and the position which it will assume in this Dominion, will depend greatly upon the conduct of its members. The wrong doing or unprofessional conduct of many individuals within its pale, cannot alter in the least its high and honourable character; but it certainly may have the effect of lowering the dignity of the profession before the public. One of the great causes of professional disloyalty and abounding quackery is to be found in the error which is committed by many young physicians in supposing that medicine is a money-making profession. They are not long in practice before they become undeceived, and then, if they be not true and honourable men, they are liable to have recourse to various questionable methods with a view of gaining popularity and increasing their income. If the acquisition of great wealth be a leading desire with any one of you this profession does not offer you a fair field. The most that the diligent and hard-working practitioner can reasonably expect as the result of years of toil is a sufficient though moderate competency. And this is more certain to be acquired by those who quietly attend to their duties, and remain firmly attached to the principles of their profession, than by those who court notoriety and endeavour to obtain practice by irregular and unprofessional means. It must be considered, however, as Mr. Paget has observed, "no small happiness to have a calling in which success can be reckoned by something else than money. Mere money-making is no evidence that a man has done anything respectable, or has gained

anything at all worth his labour, and thence, probably, it is that the most honourable professions are those in which, for the most part, services are scarcely rewarded with money, or certainly not according to the scale which mere money-makers would think adequate."

Be loyal to yourselves. At all times be guided by the promptings of your better self. Frequent and fierce will be the contests for the mastery over your thoughts and actions between the two great antagonistic principles of your nature—the good and the evil. Victory will certainly not always be in favour of the former. An infinitely greater and a better man, I may safely say, than either you or I will ever be, exclaimed in torturing perplexity of mind: "The good that I would I do not, but the evil which I would not that I do. When I would do good evil is present with me." If, however, you apply for aid to the source from which the great apostle of the Gentiles obtained the strength which enabled him to overcome the difficulties that beset him, and even to conquer self, you also may overcome. Human nature is fearfully weak. The Divine is omnipotent. Earnestly cultivate the love of right and truth. The moral part of man's nature is as capable of being strengthened and developed by exercise in the right direction as is his mental or physical part. Let a man persistently think the right thought, and persistently do the right action, and he gradually acquires a moral strength, a power to resist evil that will stand him in good stead when the hour of temptation comes. At all times, and in every thing, endeavour to square your conduct towards your fellows by that golden rule which eighteen centuries ago fell from the lips of the Divine Teacher, which has come down to us through the ages, but which the ages have practically ignored: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

In conclusion, gentlemen, with a full sense of the great responsibilities that your profession imposes on you, and with brave hearts, resolved to do your duty faithfully and manfully, go forth from this hall and enter upon your career; and, that your career may be successful in every respect—that it may be one of which your best friends may be proud, and especially one on which you may hereafter look back with those feelings of pleasure and satisfaction which the contemplation of a well-spent life always affords, is the sincere and heart-felt wish of every member of this faculty.

FARE YE WELL.

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