

Gray. (J. P.)

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

OF THE

COURSE OF 1883-4,

AT THE

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE,

Delivered September 11, 1883,

BY

JOHN P. GRAY,

SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, AT UTICA.



PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

ALBANY :
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1883.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANY, N. Y., *September 26, 1883.*

Prof. JOHN P. GRAY :

SIR—We, the undersigned committee for the class of '84 of the Albany Medical College, have been directed to request of you the manuscript of your address delivered at the Albany Medical College opening, September 11, 1883, for the purpose of its publication.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES W. KING,
FRED. R. GREENE,
C. G. HICKEY,
H. HOLLIDAY,
EDGAR ZEH,

Committee.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, UTICA, N. Y., *September 27, 1883.*

Mr. JAS. W. KING, *Chairman Committee of Class of '84, Albany Medical College :*

DEAR SIR—YOUR favor of the 26th inst. is just received. In compliance with the request of the class, presented through your committee, I place at your disposal the manuscript of the address delivered at the opening of the college course, September 11, 1883.

I am, with great respect, yours very truly,

JNO. P. GRAY.

TO MESSRS. JAS. W. KING, FRED. R. GREENE, C. G. HICKEY, H. HOLLIDAY and EDGAR ZEH, *Committee, etc.*

ADDRESS OF SALUTATION

TO THE CLASS AT THE OPENING OF THE COURSE OF
MEDICAL LECTURES AT ALBANY MEDICAL COL-
LEGE, SEPTEMBER 11, 1883.

If one, after these four thousand years of the world's history, should ask if there were any thing new or original to be said on any medical subject relating to the welfare or conduct of man, the first answer would be, "No," but after a little reflection the answer would be "Yes," and both of these answers would be correct. All fundamental truths remain unchanged and all natural laws, for they remain "the same yesterday, to-day and forever;" but the estimates of truths by men in various epochs of the world, their significance, their boundaries, their application to existing affairs constantly change. Man's discoveries in nature and her laws, whether they relate to himself or to any other thing in nature, are always new to him, and as this knowledge is unfolded he writes it down as progress in science; and though he is living in an almost undiscovered country, he is, nevertheless, apt to draw the conclusion, at any period in which he takes a survey, that he really knows it quite well; but when any one seriously asks himself what he has personally discovered or done, and what he positively knows, apart from what he has learned from others, he immediately finds himself moving in a very limited field. Indeed, only few men when asked, at the close of life, to state what they have added to the accumulated knowledge of the world can say truly that they have added any thing. They have taken a more or less limited survey of existing knowledge, have endeavored to select from time to time such parts as they may think they require in the department of life in which they have decided to enter and work, and all these they have appropriated, many claiming possession, possibly, of some of this knowledge, under a sort of "squatter sovereignty." Very appropriately one who has read and acquired much of this general stock is apt to be called a man of learning, even though an original thought has never

crossed his horizon. This applies to medicine equally with any other department of learning, and men eminent in the literature of the profession often have little or no practical knowledge outside of these acquirements; men who only seek to know what is known or supposed to be known.

This acquisition of medical knowledge, is, in a broad sense, what we mean by medical education, but this does not really and substantially educate any man as a physician, for even though he be thus learned, such learning is merely the outfit for a start in the profession. Perhaps we are all, in one sense, in the beginning, "carpet-baggers;" some with a bag well filled with this common stock, while others start with a mere grip-sack, which is, perhaps, half filled. The character and quality of each package are the test of their importance, and circumstances, unfortunately, rather than ability and judgment, too often determine these possessions.

We are not quarreling with the system that thus sets a man out on his professional career, or proposing any thing in its stead, but merely stating facts with which you are especially concerned. However known to you these things may be, it is now of the highest importance that you should carefully and wisely consider them. You appear at the door of this institution variously supplied with knowledge, elementary in some perhaps, and in some profound, and count yourselves equipped for the study of a learned profession. You have been taken at your word and the college has here formally opened to you the opportunity and means for such study and acquirement of knowledge. Then, conceding your preparation, your ability, your character and fitness as candidates, you enter fairly on your own merits. The drawbacks and defects, if any, are yours. Thus you stand face to face with a period in your history which is a turning point to you of success or failure. The college welcomes you with its best wishes and hopes for your highest success. For this it will put all its resources of instruction and guidance at your service. The energy, spirit, zeal, determination and industrious purpose with which you here enter and pursue your course will mark the measure of your success, not only with reference to your acquisitions and a degree, but largely through your lives. You are henceforth no longer boys. On entering here for the attainment of a place in the world in a high and honorable calling you are men. We welcome you as such, and the more you show yourselves entitled to this distinction, the more you will honor the college and the more the college will honor you.

The body of medical literature is very great, especially if one include that which is defunct, as well as that which is still vital. I do not refer here to old and new as defunct and vital. Some of the oldest is as fresh and potent to day as when first uttered, while of the more and even most recent, too much may be found both "stale and unprofitable," and even lighter than the vanity of the authors. But you need not be overwhelmed at this. You have before you at present your text-books and your instructors and you need not now look further.

Among the duties of teaching will be that of winnowing the chaff from the wheat, or at least of giving you the true idea of the science of medicine, as your instructors understand it; that which is generally accepted by those most competent to judge as within the present state of knowledge, and of pointing out to you that which is known to be fallacious, or useless, and showing to you at the same time, and as clearly as they may, what is doubtful or what is not sufficiently substantiated to be accepted with full credence. You will also have pointed out to you the direction in which investigation and inquiry are being pursued, in order to confirm or disprove questioned matters by the development of any new facts.

In entering upon the study of a profession it is certainly wise to fix in the mind, as far as possible, all the exact and uncontradicted, as well as the reasonably assured facts in any department of such profession, afterward acquiring all that time and opportunity will afford of the historical and progressive records. In doing this the true and the erroneous may often be best brought in contrast in order to show the true more clearly, and at the same time point out more conspicuously the nature of the erroneous.

But whatever the method followed by the various instructors you can well rely on this: if you will give the same earnestness and zeal in acquiring knowledge as they will in imparting it you will succeed. To do this you need not lay aside or forget every thing else but your medical studies. You will, if you are really studious, need recreation; but take this always after study and after a day of faithful attendance at lectures, when it will be most beneficial, for it will not then be marred by the accusing ghosts of neglected duties. Mingle duty and recreation like rational and sensible men and steal no time from either. If the young only went astray in these respects the temptations of life to idleness could be better mastered, but unfortunately "delay" and "to-morrow" are, alike, the bane of all periods of man's life. These are the fatal words with which men first lull

themselves to accept pleasure, self-indulgence and idleness at the expense of duty. They say "after a little while," or "we shall do it to-morrow." Soon to-morrow becomes the habit of life, and we all know how little certainty there is of any to-morrow to any of us. Do every day faithfully its work and you will never need the refuge of delay, and the habit of prevarication it too often engenders in dealing with yourself or others.

It is sometimes said there are too many doctors. This may be true. We cannot stop to discuss the question here; besides we should not hesitate in educating members of the profession until the ranks are full of the best. It is as true of medicine as Webster said of the law, "There is always room at the top." We want more top men. Any one who looks over the daily papers or druggist's advertisements will be sure there are not too many physicians while so many nostrums are consumed by the people; mixtures of unknown character and composition, and denominated in a general way "*patent medicines*," purporting to be products of medical experience, most of them with certificates of character and wonderful cures effected. Blood purifiers, pain-killers, worm eradicators, soothing syrups, tonic bitters, liniments and pills for men and women and children, and for all real or imaginary ills of mankind. This state of things, however, is nothing new. At all times in the history of the world secret and mysterious remedies have been used. Louis the XIVth of France in 1679 called in an English doctor named Talbot, who claimed a secret remedy for intermittent fever, to prescribe for his son, then suffering from a stubborn attack of this disease. The Dauphin rapidly recovered his health, and the King bought Talbot's secret for 48,000 livres and granted the physician a life annuity. The remedy, which turned out to be merely a tincture or wine of cinchona, was made public by the monarch's direction. The "secret remedy" was nothing new. The bark had been so used for more than forty years, and was introduced in 1640 into Europe, and its great value demonstrated by Dr. Roland Sturm of Antwerp. It had already been discovered in the forests of the Cordilleras, and as a febrifuge had been put to service for a long time by the natives of those countries, but before that time it was administered by the Corregidor of Loxa in 1638, to the Countess del Cinchon, the Spanish Vice-Queen in Peru. This lady was attacked by a very obstinate tertian ague, which the medicine very easily conquered.

After this, large quantities were distributed among the inhabitants, and the mixture was called the "Countess Powder," and was used by physicians and by the Spanish Jesuits; it was afterward called cinchona, "in memory of the Countess del Cinchon."

Ipecacuanha was also brought out as a secret remedy in the time of Louis, by Adrian Helvetius, who resolved to build his fortune on this drug. He posted placards in the streets of Paris, announcing an unfailing specific for the dysentery. The King authorized one of his physicians to make arrangements with the owner of the specific and to have the drug tested in the wards of the Hotel Dieu. Its efficacy being established, Helvetius was paid 1,000 louis d'or, with added medical honors, and the remedy was immediately made public. (Papillon.) This great King, like a true *parens patriæ*, was unwilling to keep secret any thing that might be of value to the world where human life was concerned, and at the same time he determined the value of such remedies by competent physicians, that human life might not be sacrificed nor men imposed upon by mere pretension.

The law requires that brewers shall keep an account of sales and the record of materials used to manufacture beer, etc., and keep their books open constantly for inspection as to the materials. I read recently in the newspapers that it is proposed to go further than this and make a new form under the law, requiring a statement, under oath, of the ingredients, other than malt and hops, used, as glucose, maltose, etc., or any other adulteration, and the amount of each article used. The penalty for making false entries is, under existing laws, the forfeiture of all liquors made and all apparatus used in the manufacture, and a fine of not less than from \$500 to \$1,000 and imprisonment for so doing. While it is undoubtedly a good thing to insure people good beer and liquors, it would be equally honest to do the same in regard to the use of medicine for the sick. Whenever the government shall require that every mixture claimed as medical, and put into the hands of the public, to use as each individual may desire, shall have its true ingredients set forth on the cover, it can give all the protection it chooses to trade-marks and formulas, as then each nostrum will stand on its own recognized merits.

However, all this shows that people will have medicines whether they need them or not. Further, it shows their willingness to trust to their own diagnosis of their own case. It may seem humiliating, and it is one of the apparently discouraging things to the student

commencing his studies, that the public, and among this public a large number of educated men and women, are not only self-diagnosers but self-prescribers. In the various oscillations of health in themselves or their families the advertisement of a secret remedy, in the newspaper, under an unknown or fictitious name, is to them all the knowledge they want to make their own diagnosis and swallow the unknown compound. In regard to questions of medical science and the health and lives of themselves and their families, they really act with less discretion and judgment than in the treatment of their dogs and horses. They will prescribe the unknown nostrums to their sick children and carry their pet dogs and horses to the regular veterinary surgeon.

But, gentlemen, you need not be discouraged at this, unless you propose yourselves to take a low scale and beg in the same way for practice. Prepare yourselves thoroughly for your profession as though these things were not. Though the first love may be for these secret remedies they all finally come to the physician. However they may prescribe for themselves for general discomfort and disturbances in health, which they would often find were unimportant in themselves if they consulted a physician, yet when a disease such as a fever, a gout, a pneumonia, a dysentery, a paralysis, etc., attacks them, the soothers and pain-killers and ready-reliefs are no longer the gods or the demi-gods and they fly to the real physician. We, therefore, make no war on all this traffic, while at the same time, as honest men in a humane and learned profession, we can give no countenance to ignorance, or imposition, or any science, falsely so-called. To him who prepares himself well for his profession there is no need of secrecy. Medical science, indeed, gentlemen, can have no secrets. All its ends and aims are for mankind, and science is here triumphant. We must remember that in recent times a greater sum than was paid for both of the secret remedies alluded to was given, as an honorarium, to Dr. William Gull, for a visit to the Prince of Wales, whom he rescued by scientific knowledge, to say nothing of returning to London as Sir William Gull.

The life of M. Pasteur illustrates further that science, working steadily, must, in the end, be recognized. For years he has pressed nature to reveal her greatest secrets hidden from the eyes and other senses of man, giving himself to the causes of disease in man, animals and vegetation. He has not only discovered destroying microscopic parasites which have attacked life in man and in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, but has also discovered the avenging

parasites and the means of introducing them as the remedial power to restore and protect life. Recently, on the date of the national fete of France, his native town of Dole, with solemn ceremony, placed a commemorative tablet on the house in which he was born, and the French Republic, recognizing his beneficent work, has crowned him with honors and made him a pensioner of State in the munificent sum of 25,000 francs a year, with continuation to his family. At this hour, by his own request, that great nation sends him out at her own expense to Egypt, to investigate that most dreaded of diseases, Asiatic cholera. I have recently seen the statement (in the *Manchester Guardian*, England), that Prof. Huxley has represented the scientific labors of Pasteur as equal in money value to the whole indemnity paid by France to Germany after the last war (5,000,000,000 francs). Such, gentlemen, is the grand and benevolent mission of medical science and such are the achievements of her votaries, and sometimes such is their recognition by the powers of the world.

The science of medicine, gentlemen, is what this school proposes to teach you. Such knowledge of anatomy, physiology, *materia medica*, chemistry, pathology, therapeutics, clinical and practical medicine and surgery as will enable you afterward to practice the art of medicine. Here you are to lay such sure foundations in the knowledge of the human system and the laws of its economy and the remedies for its ills as to allow you to set yourselves up as judges of its healthful normal state and the departures from that state which we call disease. This requisite knowledge, instructors in the various branches will bring before you. In doing this they may also give practical hints in the way of applying such knowledge to the discovery of diseases which they will describe to you and bring before you in the clinics, as well as the kind of remedies to be used in various morbid conditions. The art of medicine comes afterward and must be your own work. This the college cannot teach you except in this general and indirect way. It will be able to give you the degree of Doctor of Medicine if you will give yourselves to the acquisition of the knowledge which is presented to you, day by day, in the lecture-room, the hospital and the laboratory. But this is all. You must make yourselves physicians. Every doctor in medicine is not a physician. This must be accomplished as the result of medical knowledge and the exercise of judgment—to discriminate and utilize this knowledge in all its effects

and parts as a practical science in its application to particular causes of disease.

The phenomena or symptoms which mark departures from health in any individual may be plain enough to those instructed, but are not so tangible that a wayfaring man, foolish or wise, can be expected to see or understand them unaided. Still, they are sufficiently tangible to be detected by intelligent men who give the necessary study and preparation and observation in practice. The classification and grouping of these phenomena constitute largely the skill in diagnosis. This skill in recognizing symptoms, their grouping and classification must depend, however, as I have suggested, on acquiring a knowledge of the phenomena themselves and on personal judgment, both in recognizing their existence and grouping them in any given case. Disease, in a general way, is disturbed or perverted physiological action, and to know or recognize disturbed physiological action how well you must know physiology itself. When we know that the rise in temperature of the body of a few degrees shows such disturbance that it often tells the story of mild or fatal disease, we see upon what apparently light factors knowledge moves. Medical science is only acquired by reading and study, and without study here you will not be prepared to make yourselves, what you desire to be, physicians.

You will understand from reading and from the lectures that there are uncertainties in medicine as there are in all departments of human knowledge and affairs. I do not wish to say to you, however, at the same time, or admit that medicine is especially an uncertain science. No more, perhaps, than law, and among physicians I doubt whether there are any more blunders or blunderers than among lawyers. I know there is a sort of proverb that doctors disagree. This, gentlemen, was undoubtedly written and promulgated by a lawyer and on the diversion principle of "stop thief." We do not pretend to encourage you in the idea that you must always be in accord, but in agreement and harmony. You will be in harmony when you are honestly seeking the truth in any case. To see from different standpoints of knowledge or judgment is not disagreement. Here is where a lawyer does not apprehend or understand the physician. He does not discriminate, in a given case, between medicine as a science, and the different opinions of physicians in their recognition and interpretation of the symptoms of the case under question. Any lawyer might recall the difference among his brethren in the application of principles of law to par-

ticular cases and the conflicting opinions as to how the facts in evidence should be read or construed in the light of legal science. We might cite the differing opinions on the same matters of judges of courts, men equally eminent, to prove that of all professions the law is not only the one in which the accuracy of human judgment is the most uncertain, but conspicuously it is the profession in which there is to be found the widest disagreement in the interpretation of facts and their classification and application under rules of evidence. They have courts of error to adjust these matters, and I anticipate their reply that the final medical court of error, unhappily, lies beyond the jurisdiction of men. This, gentlemen, if true, should only urge you to more thorough study and the greater diligence in discovering truth.

Now you will understand, gentlemen, where the apparent disagreement of doctors comes in. It is not so much a disagreement as to what medical science is as in its application to some given case : the art or practice of medicine which is the work and judgment of the individual physician. The fixing of the symptoms in the light of science, and the discrimination as to the remedies to be used, suggested by science and experience, are the points upon which differences are likely to occur, and here is where consultations may be resorted to as the medical court of error. I touch upon this point to say to you that you need have no hesitation in professional life in differing, but hesitate long in disagreeing. The profession is one which cannot allow of disagreements. Here in your studies pledge yourselves not only to honest work but to the highest professional honor. Begin with this, in these seats, while acquiring knowledge side by side, and when you reach the threshold of your profession, to begin its practical work, you will find yourselves strong in generous rivalry and in cordial sympathy with men with whom you are to do the work of life. This may seem an unnecessary piece of advice. Something you should all be likely to do anyhow. Perhaps so. I hope so. The contrary of this, however, happens often enough to justify these few words upon the subject from one who has observed something of life and of men, and who has seen the disastrous influence on the profession and on individuals of useless disagreements, and indeed they are always useless, and often pernicious. I have known men who have made their lives miserable by imagining themselves in disagreement and conflict with others. Perhaps to escape all envy, jealousy and bickerings would be the exception in any calling with human nature as

we find it. But let your rule of life be silence toward the envious and the traducers. Let such men wrestle with their own bad elements. When once you have been placed in a position where you scarcely see how you can avoid a collision, and have risen above it in silence, you have reached the position of master of yourselves, and therein and thereafter you will realize there is something in the truth of the declaration that "He who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city." However, there are combats and conflicts which are honorable in the profession — the discussion of professional questions where the attrition of intellectual activities brings sparks and even lights fires. But these are fires around which the combatants themselves can sit in council.

I said to you, gentlemen, that you are here to lay the foundation of your profession at the beginning of your course. I am well aware as I have said to you, that the scope of medical knowledge required is very wide and varied and far beyond what it used to be, but I would also say to you that the facilities for instruction are increasingly better year by year. This is especially true in regard to the study of chemistry, physiology and pathology, which may now be so illustrated as to make the laboratory recitation more potent as a means of instruction than the lectures or books alone can possibly be. But, remember, that all these means are so adjusted as to require, as well as complement, each other. Thus, while much is demanded of you, and perhaps more than in former years, the facilities for acquiring are correspondingly increased.

This college has made constant progress to keep abreast of the general advance. Since the close of the last term great improvements have been made in the buildings, all tending to increase and facilitate the means of instruction. The central building has been carried up another story, making room for a large, well-arranged and well-fitted dissecting-room, with special rooms for the use of the professors of anatomy and physiology. Arrangements have also been made for enlarging the museum and affording greater opportunity there for anatomical and pathological study. All these changes not only give larger facilities for work and more thorough instruction, but they also provide for the best hygienic condition of students while at work.

To the faculty you can look with confident assurance for justice and liberality. They are only anxious for your highest success. The long list of graduates stretching back through the history of the college, numbering now over sixteen hundred, and with an

alumni association, at present, of more than a thousand members, can well attest this. I might name one among us as a living witness, whom I see here, who entered the faculty at the beginning, and who has ever since given to this school the benefit of his large and ripe learning and his wise counsel, and who, through all these years, has stood, as he now stands,—a fit representative of the highest type of man, Christian, friend, physician, teacher,—our own beloved Nestor, Thomas Hun.

And I might refer you, gentlemen, to many names on the roster of the college of men who have made themselves prominent, if it was necessary, to encourage you. I might point you to distinguished founders and teachers in this school, names familiar in medicine, surgery and jurisprudence: T. Romeyn Beck, Alden March, James H. Armsby, Henry Green, David McLachlan, Gunning S. Bedford, James McNaughton, Ebenezer Emmons, David M. Reese, Lewis C. Beck, Howard Townsend, John V. P. Quackenbush, Amos Dean, John D. Lansing, James E. Pomfret, Edmund R. Peasley, Ira Harris, Henry R. Haskins, Edward R. Hun, and now Jacob S. Mosher added to this honored list. With most of these the speaker has had the honor and pleasure of personal acquaintance. These were men whose character and lives imparted vigor and strength to other men in their day, and the communities in which they lived felt safe by their presence. Men who added lustre and dignity to the words, surgeon, physician and scholar.

That six of the present faculty of the college are her own graduates abundantly shows that the Albany Medical College appreciates and honors her own alumni. Gentlemen, the fact that you have selected an institution which exacts a three years' course of graded study we take as an earnest of your intent to work and to win success. I congratulate you, gentlemen, on this step, and feel assured that in the coming years you will look back with just and reasonable pride to the fact that you were among those who first entered a college in the face of this prolonged and higher course. It speaks well for your future.

In this course of study, for your degree of Doctor in Medicine, we neither expect you to go out finished medical scholars, nor that you will cease reading and study after you have received a degree and are no longer in fear of examinations. But, gentlemen, while you will not be examined by us after your course is finished here, you may be well assured that the public will examine you over and

over again, and that you will be examined and re-examined by your fellows as to your qualifications as well as to your character. This you must meet, and you will only be able to do it by continuous study with practice. This thing called the Public may not always or generally be just or discriminating in its estimate, but it is worth while to keep this fact in consideration, that it is a perpetual examiner. But this I am justified in assuring you, that if you so prepare yourselves that you are really what you ought to be, you need have no fear; you will not then be afraid to be found out or tested by any tribunal. Commencing the foundation here, the superstructure you are to build is something that can only be the work of your entire life. But see to it that by patient attention and industry here, during these precious months, you get such a start that you can go forward easily and safely and complete your education as medical men in the practice of your profession. I impress this point that you may not only appreciate the importance of reading and study, but that you may really acquire a love for it, as a necessary and reasonable ambition in your profession hereafter. I think I am justified in saying if you do not do so now you will not be likely to commence afterward, nor be likely to reach the higher planes in the profession. Too many physicians read too little; many scarcely enough to suggest food for thought or reflection in their freshly-developing professional work. The consequence is their practice is not enriched, as it ought to be and might be, by the current knowledge of what is being done in the way of constant advancement. And how often men of real ability make to themselves, as well as to others, the excuse that they are too much occupied in work to read. This is, indeed, generally, a lame excuse, and I have no doubt that in the great majority of such cases this neglect of study is a bar to advancing themselves in the profession. Their failure to read is from failure to cultivate early the habit of reading, and from this same cause men drift into the habit of wasting hours in idle talk or games, or in other ways, that might be used to their infinite advantage in keeping themselves posted in professional affairs.

Careful reading is essential to give that mental stimulus which will not only make a man a more close observer but which will also keep his eyes open to the facts and phenomena that cross his path, and enable him to systematize better the results of his own observations. Without this he is not likely to contribute to the general stock of knowledge in his profession. Lord Bacon says, "Reading makes a *full* man."

You will apprehend that the essential condition of success here, and in professional life, is work; patient, careful work. Men can only win substantial success by daily toil and such toil, honestly performed, fortunately becomes pleasure. Genius and ability and favoring circumstances will do much for men, but they cannot compete successfully with good, sound, steady work. Though genius and favoring circumstances, with light work, may get a man through the ordeal of the college to a doctor's degree, and may open a practice, rarely will they land him in the higher positions in his profession. To accomplish this he must add labor. Among the men of recognized ability and genius, who, starting in professional life under most favoring circumstances, have made a real mark in the profession you will find no idlers, no men who trusted to genius to carry them upward and forward, but you will find they were all workers and hard workers. I have not to go out of this city to cite such instances. The high positions such men attain are not due to the fact that they are fortunate in circumstances, but that they are fortunate in having a disposition for work. Realizing early that labor is the price of success they laid their hearts as well as their minds to it. Here, too, bear in mind, that you are not to be envious, or inclined to offer excuses because you have not all the fortunate circumstances that others have and thus slacken or cripple your work. Remember, gentlemen, the true heroic man, all the more lays himself to the work and seizes his opportunity. He

"Grasps the skirts of happy chance,
And breasts the blows of circumstance,
And grapples with his evil star,
And makes by force his merits known,"

and thus raises himself to be the center of fortunate surroundings. Remember, also, that those of you who are fortunate in your surroundings have a double responsibility. Having these possessions, if you fail, it will be so conspicuous as to draw upon you pity and even contempt, while he who is the less fortunate, if he wins by his own efforts, has forever the pleasurable feeling of satisfaction and independence, that he owes no debt and has won his own possession. This, gentlemen, could be conspicuously said of Professor Mosher, the distinguished member of the faculty whose recent and sudden death we all mourn, who starting in life without favorable surroundings rose into the high position he occupied in the broad field of science, public utility and State affairs, by vigilant work, though at his untimely death he had not reached the zenith of man's life. He

stands as an example of what diligent purpose and loyalty to duty may accomplish. May I not add here, members of the faculty, that it is difficult to realize that this "human hearted" man and loyal friend has gone. On the seventh of August, only five days before his death, he wrote me in regard to a patient of his, and forwarded to me copies of the college catalogues to give me information touching matters of this address and closed his letter with these words: "I am glad you are to deliver our opening." His letter was cheerful and did not even hint of sickness, much less of death. The sound of his voice still lingers in our ears and we still feel the warm grasp of his hand. To him a sorrowful adieu!

To accomplish the best results then, gentlemen, you have only to be loyal to yourselves from the start. You are to allow yourselves no excuses and to hold yourselves strongly and firmly to the most honorable use of your opportunities. Make your first mark here in the college, in the class, and the after marks will more surely come. A distinguished professor of one of the colleges of the highest standing wrote me of one of its graduates in commending him to me: "He is well-bred; he has tact, courtesy and discretion; he is able and educated, thoroughly fitted for the practice of his profession in all its branches, and finally, he is energetic and faithful in the discharge of duty." These, gentlemen, are the characteristics I would commend to you. You will see that in a course not longer than the one on which you are entering, a young man, starting with perhaps more than a few of you have in the way of advantages and equipment and with less than many others have, by exercising only the honest qualities of a man determined on duty impresses himself on his teacher as he will undoubtedly on his profession.

It must be admitted that with professional men the medical man pre-eminently stands on his own acquirements and honorable conduct in life, and to him character is something that cannot be over-estimated. The unworthy minister may be arraigned and refused the charge of a congregation, the lawyer who acts dishonorably may be thrown over the bar and be denied recognition and standing in the courts, but the medical profession has no such protection against offenders. The only court to which the medical profession can appeal is that which is in perpetual session, the public, and in that court there is no bar to recognition on account of character, conduct or acquirements. There each man stands for himself. He may robe himself in the honorable name of the profession and do honor to it by his life, or he may dishonor it without being arraigned or

cast out. Codes may be to him what he interprets them. He may obey or disregard them, for in the view of that great court before which he practices, once a doctor always a doctor. Says Professor Rolleston: "Dignity rests upon responsibility — a man is worthy or unworthy, accordingly as he can or cannot make a good answer when called upon by a voice, either from within or without, to account for his conduct or for his character."

But, gentlemen, admitting all this, the medical profession is still the noblest in its purposes, its work, its courage, its sacrifices and its humanity. The physician takes his place quietly in the world between man and death, whether in peace or in war. "In the pestilence that walketh in darkness" when other men quail, he stands fearless and unmoved, the friend and defender of mankind. The physician sees in death neither an enemy nor a friend but a great fact in the history of humanity. He is to understand his approaches and ward him off until his appointed time.

I have not sought to deliver a professional address to you, gentlemen; I have had neither time nor material. When asked by the faculty to do this I merely promised what I have here tried to do; to say something to you in starting by way of encouragement, and to direct you to such paths as might give you the best possible training of yourselves as well as training by others, for the highest plane of professional work, when you enter professional life, for, as I have sought to impress upon you, we desire that you become not only doctors in medicine, with honorable remembrance by your *alma mater*, but that you may make good physicians afterward, advising you always to emulate the best man. And may I not finally add that the true physician should not only cultivate himself, as I have suggested, and have all the qualifications connected with the name; that he should not only be a gentleman, but that he should be gentle, because his life is with the sick. He should be as gentle and considerate as he is wise. The sacredness of professional communications, the trust necessarily reposed in the physician, the delicacy of his duties, all demand this.

Therefore I urge you to cultivate your hearts so that your warm sympathies will be spontaneous and generous, and these qualities will then be seen and felt in the quiet assurance of your words in the sick chamber, as well as in the wisdom of your acts. When every woman you are called to treat is your mother and your sister, and every man your father and your brother, you will have reached the mastery of yourselves and the majesty of your calling. There are

men here connected with this college, and there are others who have been, whom I could point out to you, of whom all this could well be said. Professional men now before you on whose heads are falling the benedictions of the generations that surround them as fall the dews on Mount Hermon. The unspoken consciousness of the rectitude of their professional life makes their age beautiful and peaceful.

But these men, to whom I have referred, were not men of milk and water who sought to purchase peace by avoiding honest and legitimate combat. On the contrary, men who were as jealous of the honor of the profession as the lover of the honor of his betrothed; true knights in guarding and defending their profession, standing by it and for it at all times and at all hazards. But they were also men of peace and good will and of tenderness of life. Many of them are gone :

“ Their bones are dust,
 Their swords are rust,
 *Their souls are with the saints, we trust.”

While we cannot take inheritance from them, for their lives were their own, we may well draw instruction and faith from their lives and character, while we do our own work and endeavor to write ourselves on our own time as honorably and as usefully as they did upon theirs; for our lives are our own to make them what we will, and to answer for them at the judgment to come. Man is not a material thing to perish with the using, but an immortal spirit destined to an eternal life of which this life is but the commencing day :

“ The deeds we do, the words we say,
 Into still air they seem to fleet;
 We count them ever past;
 But they shall last;
 In the dread judgment they
 And we shall meet.”

* “ The knight's bones are dust,
 And his good sword rust,
 His soul is with the saints, I trust.”

Coleridge: (The Knight's Tomb.)

