INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO THE SPRING

SESSION OF LECTURES

IN

CASTLETON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

By SAMUEL PARKMAN, M. D.
Prof. of Anatomy, Member Boston Soc. for Med. Improvement, &c.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

WHITEHALL, N. Y.
PRINTED BY SOUTHMAYD & WATKINS.
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Castleton, March 8th, 1845.

Prof. S. PARKMAN,

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Students of Castleton Medical College, March 7th, 1845, Charles Brackett being Chairman, and A. B. Carpenter, Secretary, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to request a copy of your late Introductory Lecture for publication.

Therefore, in accordance with our instructions, we submit the above request.

Very respectfully, Yours, &c.

L. DICKERMAN, Vermont.
GEORGE H. LEACH, N. Y.
M. L. HARTER, Ohio.
JOHN HUNT, Mich.
A. T. BRUNDAGE, Pa.
THOMAS LONG, N. C.
CHARLES ANGELL, Ind.
L. D. COWDIN, Miss.
A. H. ATWOOD, N. H.
CHARLES CUMMINGS, Mass.
T. L. ANDREWS, Conn.
ALVAN S. PAYNE, Va.

Castleton, March 8th, 1845.

GENTLEMEN:

I take pleasure in complying with the complimentary request of the Class for a copy of my Introductory Lecture for publication.

Please transmit to the Class, and accept for yourselves the assurance of my consideration and esteem.

I am, very truly, Yours, &c.

SAMUEL PARKMAN.

To Messrs. DICKERMAN, LEACH,
HARTER, and others,
Committee.

LECTURE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDICAL CLASS:

But a few short months have elapsed and the Faculty of this College again find themselves at their posts prepared to meet those who have come up to them for instruction. It is my duty, and in its performance I assure you I find a pleasure, to meet you this day, for the first time, to extend to you, in behalf of my colleagues, the hand of fellowship and guidance, and to conduct you within the gates, where I trust those bonds which should always unite the Instructor and the Instructed, may be woven and strengthened. To many of you, undoubtedly, this is the commencement of the so called Course of Medical Instruction.—With beating hearts and anxious aspirations you have entered for the race, and far be it from me to dampen the ardor which is at once the characteristic and the beauty of the youthful character. It is to be remembered, however, that the race is long, and the ground rough, and that only the untiring and persevering can hope for the plate.

In addressing you at this time, I propose, in the first place, to make to you a few remarks upon the views to influence you in your choice of the profession, as also, upon the preparatory education which, in my opinion is necessary to the commencing student. I am led naturally to these remarks at this time, since, from a somewhat prolonged acquaintance with medical pupils, I have observed that but few have a sufficiently clear and correct idea of what they are undertaking. They are launching their barks upon unknown seas, and rare, very rare is it, that the discovery of a new world, a Golconda or an Ind, is the reward of their rash undertaking. The usefulness of many a young man to society is destroyed by the hasty and rash choice of a profession like that of medicine. He discovers too late his mistake, and too many circumstances conspire to prevent the rectification of his error. It is one of the besetting faults of our young men, especially in the Northern States, that they are inclined to leave the common and, as it were, the every day occupations of life, to range themselves in the ranks of professions already over-crowded, where rewards, and those often scanty, are given only to the most distinguished, whilst those of moderate attainments are soon

over-swept in the rushing tide of the stream of society. This mistake, although fatal, arises from noble and commendatory motives; their minds aspire to something higher than the common routine of vulgar, uneducated life; their intellectual faculties demand a higher culture, that the whole food should not be so selfishly appropriated by their corporeal brethren. This acquirement is commendatory, I repeat; it shows the mind awakened to a just sense of what is the higher portion of our nature—that higher portion of our nature, which, when freed from the dross of corporeal infirmities, will liken us and place us on a par with those Beings of another world, whose bodies are shades, but whose minds comprehend the Universe. This desire for instruction and elevation of character is laudable, but the mistake arises from the supposition that it is only in the ranks of the professions that students are found. A man may earn his livelihood in any manner whatever, and at the same time take his enjoyment in the study of a Science. A professional life is by no means always attended with the unmixed pleasures arising from the acquisition of knowledge. In all of the professions, that part of them by which the bread is earned, is, alas! but little above the drudgery of the house carpenter, or even of the day-laborer.

With a little of that self-laudation which is said to be the characteristic of the American character, we are accustomed to talk somewhat boastfully of our widely diffused education. Perhaps an invidious critic might, in acknowledging its diffusion, doubt whether, in its extension, it had not become in a degree attenuated, so that very little could be found concentrated in such sufficient quantity, in any one individual, as to render him capable of elevating himself above the common herd. The wise man has said "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing," and I very much fear that the imperfect education received by a vast number of our young men, only serves to goad them to attempt the leap without giving them sufficient strength to carry them over the ditch that lies on the other side of the hedge. Abilities which would have made them highly valued and useful members of society in some of its humbler, but not less respectable walks, are sacrificed to a mistaken notion. They observe the distinction paid to the dignitaries of the professions, and they imagine, in their zeal, that this is the prize attained by all who enter the lists, or at least, that they are to be the successful competitors.

Such are some of the causes impelling the young man to the study of the professions. Very few, I am aware, enter them regarding them as a means, whence they are to draw their daily bread in future; they are, it is true, inspired with the more holy desire of acquiring knowledge, of

cultivating their minds, and in the ardor of youth they forget they have stomachs and a nutritive apparatus to supply. I would not dampen a single one of these aspirations, I would not deprive the wing of genius of a single plume by questions of expediency and of sordid calculation. Let them advance in the paths of knowledge—let them each day walk in the fields of science and of literature, but I do feel that I am but speaking the truth, when I say that when a profession does not give bread to its followers, the science which belongs to it will fail to be prosecuted with ardor, and the man who has adopted it will be lost to society. The army of mankind has lost a soldier, crippled in his prime.

Our profession is perhaps, more than others subject to this over-crowding. Divinity offers too few rewards to tempt the hypocrite, and the really pure-minded are too few not always to find a field, where their labors may be useful. The Law brings its followers more immediately in contact with other men—opens to them other avenues to distinction than the mere routine of business, and the highest gift of the people are often the rewards of the successful. The qualifications of the Lawyer, being more easily appreciated by his client, an ordinary individual seldom gains an advantage over his superior, and the profession offering few inducements in itself, is seldom commenced except by those who feel within themselves the strength for the undertaking. Medicine on the other hand is a science offering in itself many charms to the student. It attracts all the class of whom I have spoken, who enter upon a profession inspired with the love of its science, without regarding it as a means of a livelihood; a class of young men not found in the legal profession, and who while they, perhaps, gain not the distinction, which is their desert, form the brightest ornament of ours; young men, full of zeal and talent —inspired with the holy love of knowledge for her own sake, and who give to the practitioner of medicine the higher character of a physician and a scientific man; men not seen in the busy throngs of society, and who receive few of its rewards, passed by the hurrying throng, who sneeringly ask the amount of their moneyed receipts and judge them accordingly, their minds are occupied only in the study and accumulation of new facts, encouraged only with the hope that perhaps in another world, in the language of one of the brightest luminaries which the Anglo-Saxon race has given to our profession, they may be permitted to rest quiet, and contemplate and understand the causes of the phenomena they have witnessed here. It attracts also, I am afraid not a few of inferior qualifications who feel their deficiencies for professions which bring them more closely in contact with society, and in which their mistakes

might be more easily detected. This class I trust is small, but sure I am that a large number of young men enter our professions without understanding its nature, from the fact that it is not easily discovered by the ordinary observation of the student. He observes the distinction paid to the favorite practitioner of the neighborhood; he becomes enamored with the idea of entering the penetralia of knowledge, where only the initiated tread, and does not weigh sufficiently the hardships, the privations and the sufferings which have been the lot of many who have succeeded, and of all who have failed. Such are some of the causes which tend to over-crowd our ranks, while at the same time, from the small prizes that are offered, perhaps not the most brilliant are attracted to contend for them.

I pass now to make a few remarks upon the preparatory education which I deem necessary to the young man who is about to enter upon a study so vast and comprehensive as that of medicine. Necessary to his success, I say, and when I say success, I mean not merely the immediate establishment of a large and profitable practice. The nature of our profession is such, that a scientific education is, unfortunately, not always the certain road to the immediate advancement of its possessor to the family confidence of the society into which he is thrown; the well educated are often compelled to see preferred to themselves those of their competitors whom they know to be their inferiors. They are often, it is true, compelled to this mortification, but they may safely be assured it is only for a time. In the long and arduous struggle for distinction, the man well-grounded and firm in his knowledge must always triumph over the one, who owes his temporary success to fortuitous circumstances, a fortunate manner, or the ease with which he adapts himself to the whims and prejudices of his employer. The advantages of manner are no doubt of great account; the mind of the patient is impaired always in a greater or less degree, by the disease, under which his body labors, and he requires the soothing attention of a friend as well as the advice of the scientific practitioner, and the latter will seldom have its full weight unless supported by the former. But the patient, or at least his friends are seldom slow to discover that kind attentions and winning ways are alone little able to contend with the enemy Disease, and they are soon led to prefer the *utile* to the *dulce*.

For the young man commencing a study so vast in its range as that of Medicine, I regard the possession of a good collegiate education as of considerable importance, though by no means indispensible. The influence of the Classics—of the Humanities, as they are termed in the quaint

language of the Scottish Universities, can be more easily felt than described. They surround the individual with a softening influence which is felt spread over his whole intellectual character; habits of study and application are acquired, and they form, as it were, the foundation of the building, in which it is difficult to say to what particular stone its safety is entrusted, but from which none could be subtracted without danger. As local prejudices are removed by foreign travel, as the man who has seen many lands, with the eye of proper instruction, is not narrowed in his views, nor tied to regard the peculiarities of any section as necessary to the existence of society, and the observance of its laws; so the study of the classics, viewing mankind in other times—the travel and observation of the intellect—contributes to the strength and enlargement of its Faculties, enables it to weigh false pretensions, to discover the weakness of supposed infallibility, not to yield itself to the dictation of others, but observing from his history how prone is the mind of man, deceiving itself, to attempt the deception of others; to weigh every new statement advanced as fact in the balance of experience, and to seek it if it be founded in the immutable nature of things. In the hurry of our active lives, few have leisure to cultivate the ground thus planted in our youth, the fruit often dies half ripened on the land, but its growth and its decay have not been without influence upon the soil, and the vegetation which, in after years, is brought to maturity, owes much of its vigor and force to this primary growth which, although it has disappeared, has given its elements to fertilize and strengthen the soil. The utilitarian may appear to triumph in the *cui bono* argument, and may pretend to believe that the time is wasted which is not employed in acquisitions directly bearing upon the practical employments of life, but no one who has once acquired the knowledge looks upon it in this light; and although in after years all memory may have passed from him, still its influence is felt.

> "You may break, you may ruin the vase if you will,
> But the scent of the roses will cling round it still."

The beneficial influence of the study of the classics, I have regarded merely as giving strength and tone to the intellectual character, and fitting it to grapple with those difficult problems which constitute Medical Science—the knowledge of them I have said is by no means indispensable.

The Science of Medicine, however, connecting itself so intimately with all the other Sciences, and the time allowed for mere medical education being so short, I consider it absolutely necessary that the student, before commencing, should have obtained some knowledge of these different

branches, if he proposes to elevate himself above the mere prescriber of powders and pills, and to raise himself to the dignity of a philosophic practitioner of our art. More than any other man it behooves the philosophic physician to cultivate his intelligence, to extend his judgment by comparisons and to strengthen himself with an abundant array of facts in order to penetrate into the causes of disease. Mathematics and Geometry fortify his reasoning powers, and a knowledge of the laws of Physics serve to explain to him the various problems of hydraulics, mechanics, &c. presented by our organization. In fact the whole circle of the Sciences, it is not too much to say, may be laid under contribution by the physician who proposes to fulfil the station which the importance of his science to mankind allots to him. And it is by the knowledge of these sciences which appear as collateral to medicine, that he is often enabled to gain that position in society which insures his future success. The physician is constantly appealed to upon all the questions which interest mankind in their collection into society, the influence of external agents, and of all causes which act upon men gathered in masses. The solving of problems of this nature requires an amount of general information much beyond what can be given in the short course of a strictly speaking medical education.

The mere medical skill and attainments of a practitioner cannot possibly be estimated by those around him, whose patronage he is desirous to receive; they must necessarily judge him, in a great measure, by his apparent acquaintance with those branches of science with which they themselves are in a degree familiar; and when they find him ignorant upon these common subjects, and showing a want of knowledge upon these, as it were, practical sciences, they naturally draw inferences as regards the amount of his medical education. By the amount of his general information, the physician gains that position and influence in society, that his directions are received with confidence, his commands obeyed with exactness, and he exerts an influence over the minds of his patients which materially assists the action of his remedies.

Apart then from the aid furnished in the study of medicine by a previous good universal information upon science in general, we observe its influence upon the whole intellectual character; as the training exercise of the athlete renders his step more firm and his bearing more easy and confident even in the motions where his strength is not suspected, so this exercise of the mind, this invigoration of its powers, this training of its faculties, is seen even in its simplest operations, not only enabling it to grapple with more power and chance of victory with the abstruser pro-

blems, but to discover hidden meanings and new revelations in the simplest phenomena daily presented to the observation.

The most successful and most fortunate, dependent only on their own strength, and unaided by hereditary patronage, are compelled to wait a long time before their hands may find wherewithal to employ themselves. During these hours of patient waiting, with no resources of its own, no field in which it may exercise its powers, no subject at which, like the ancient knight in time of peace, it may throw its blunted javelins, or tilt its lance of argument in anticipation of the more serious conflict which is to follow, the mind rusts and becomes emasculated, no longer rouses itself at the prospect of new knowledge, hears with inattentive and listless ear the trumpet that challenges it to the ennobling contest, and when the opportunity is offered for success and distinction, it is lost, for the desire has failed. The hours of calm, when we lie motionless, waiting for the breeze to fill the sail of our lazy barque, are not to be spent in inaction, or, when the wind does arise, the masts and the cordage may be found to be rotten and fail us at our need, and we be left a helpless hulk on the waste of waters. It is then only by having his mind open to the reception of knowledge from all quarters, by maintaining an interest in science of every kind, whether it immediately relate to his profession or not, that the young medical man may pass the hours of anxious expectation, without losing the strength that he has already acquired; and to enable him to take pleasure in these pursuits, he must have received a previous education in their elementary branches, he must already have attained to sufficient advancement to love knowledge and acquirement for their own sake, or any exercise of his mind will be but drudgery and toil, the travel over a road merely to pass the ground and not to enjoy the scenery which it presents, or to cull the flowers which grow by its side.

The Medical man must possess knowledge, and even some considerable degree in other matters than mere medicine, not only for the advancement of himself into business, by being enabled to present himself, as it were, in a tangible shape to his fellows, but also to preserve the original powers of his own mind. In European countries, where society is fully formed, and its distinctions well marked, and each scientific laborer has his allotted portion of the field to cultivate, and the appropriate reward offered, minute subdivisions may very well exist. A man may confine himself very well to medicine alone, or even the most insignificant of its branches, and he shall find that he will arrive at the degree of distinction which this merits. But with us this is quite different, and for a long time must be so; and neither is it desirable that the change should be

made. It is true, by this minute subdivision of labor, this confinement of the intellectual powers of the individual to a particular subject, that that particular subject arrives at its greatest degree of perfection, but the individual is lost. The pin has required the united exertions of five artizans for its completion, and truly it is perfect; but the intellects of these five have been stultified to obtain the end. Varied accomplishments and extensive erudition are the ornaments of the medical man, enable him to shine in conversation and mix in society on a level with its most distinguished members, and cause him to be sought not merely to minister to disease, as a companion for the real invalid or even the hypochondriac, but to play his part with those willing to give no way to false presumption or self-sufficient arrogance. A good previous education, then, is the ground work of the medical character as it ought to be, and by it its possessor is enabled to bring into view his medical knowledge which might otherwise be unsuspected.

It will be seen then, that I consider the physician to have other duties to perform than the mere prescription of medicine for disease, another place to fill in society than the necessary accompaniment of the sick chamber, connected only in the minds of his patients with nurses, pills and powders, a darkened room and an aching head—an individual whose presence must be endured, but from whose society all shrink until actually compelled to cry to him for aid, doubting always, perhaps, whether he has it to bestow. No educated man would be content for a moment to occupy a position so degrading. And yet this must be the position of the medical man, unless by his general education, his acquirement in the different branches of science, he is enabled to show that his mind has been enlarged and strengthened by an acquaintance with what should form part of the education of every gentleman. He must shew that he is not the man of a single idea, the horse who has travelled his never-ending round blindfold in the treadmill of the ferry boat. When he mixes in society he must be able to give other information than whether Typhus is this year slaying its usual number of victims, and be proud of conversing with anxious mothers upon other topics than whether scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough are rife among little children just beginning to go alone. He should feel it an insult to be thus attacked wherever he makes his appearance, to have his trade thus every day thrown in his teeth; and yet to how many is this constantly done? And why is it but because medical men do not fit themselves to mingle in society upon a par with those whose attainments entitle them to be its leaders. The cobbler is nothing beyond his last, the Doctor is apt to be nothing beyond his medicine chest.

I would wish to occupy the moments still remaining to me, in making a few remarks upon your own position as medical students, as young men commencing a study which has always received the reverence of mankind, and whose early professors were ranked by their grateful fellow mortals among the gods. The past thirty years have introduced into medical science and medical instruction improvements greater perhaps than any brought forward by any century of years whatsoever. I am not disposed, by any manner of means, to underrate the services of those mighty minds who have gone before us, of those minds which, appearing from time to time, at long intervals, as if Nature were compelled to pause after their birth to gather strength for a fresh effort, have seemed endowed as if by inspiration to grasp at views, and to discover and solve problems which humbler men pretend not to comprehend. The Science of Medicine has been adorned by many such men in all ages, and we are now reaping the fruits of their labors, often, it is true, without giving them the credit for not only planting but rearing to maturity the seed. But within the past thirty years, of which I speak, our science has become more systematized, it has advanced more to the dignity of a real science, it has become more a science of observation and less of hypothesis. Single individuals do not appear to tower by their brilliancy above all their contemporaries, the patient, accurate observer is now the true laborer and the only one to receive the reward; he has perhaps less opportunity to shine, but more of being useful. As shown in a recent American work* on the Philosophy of Medical Science, and which, let me say, would do honor to the medical literature of any country as developing the true principles which are to guide us in our studies, the influence of the philosophy of Bacon is beginning to be felt even among medical observers. It is no longer permissable to concoct theories in the quiet of the study and then to go abroad into the world to attempt to fit the facts that we find to the Procrustean bed we have made. We are beginning to be distrustful of this and that Professor's *theory* of disease, we are beginning to demand *facts*, and *again* facts, and *always* facts, as the only things desirable or useful in the search after truth.

And the means of accurate observation have been multiplied equally during this period, with the advance of which I speak. During this time Auscultation and Percussion have raised themselves into sciences, they have changed the ear and the finger into organs of vision, and have placed diseases of the chest in the same category as those of Surgery; so that

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*"The Philosophy of Medical Science," by Elisha Bartlett, M. D Professor of Theory and Practice, University of Maryland.

the progress of an external inflamation through its various stages of induration, suppuration, &c. cannot be more certainly watched by the eye, than the same process can be measured in the cavity of the chest by the ear and the finger of the Auscultator and the Percussor. This, too, is no occult science, to be learnt only by by a few, endowed with rare opportunities; founded upon a few physical laws the most simple and most easily understood, so simple that its discoverer almost exhausted the science, and others have had nothing but to confirm and wonder at the accuracy of his observation, it is at the command of every individual, and no one is excusable who neglects it.

In other branches, also, the science has made rapid advances during this time; the cultivation of Pathological Anatomy, which has for its object, if possible, to understand exactly the processes and changes taking place in the organs of the economy under disease, is more extensively recognized as one of the fundamental and necessary principles. The application of the microscope to elucidate processes too minute for unaided vision, and which applied to inflammation has already rendered almost certain what the inspired genius of Hunter foresaw, but which had been forgotten, because not confirmed by sure and accurate observation. Chemistry, too, has lent her assistence, and we employ it now in the accurate measurement of vital processes; we have arrived at a position, though far short of what we hope to attain when we can describe some of the most hidden of vital changes, and imitate even Nature herself in her labratory. But here let me pause to notice briefly the objections that have been made to the recent brilliant developments in Organic Chemistry. Are there no vital laws exclaim its opponents? Can you imitate Nature so closely that she shall not know her own work? This is not pretended; we only have endeavored to look a little deeper into her operations, to show what she requires for their perfection and what are their results. We cannot make a single particle of bone in our crucibles, but we can show how it is done in those of Nature; we can show whence the material is derived; we can discover the source of the earthy salts; we can show that Nature herself cannot work impossibilities, that she cannot create matter, that she can only remodel; and these, her processes, we desire to learn; not to imitate her do we aspire, but only to bow in admiration before her handiwork.

Medical Science, then, is becoming daily more a science of observation, fixing itself upon ascertained facts, the foundation is being laid, and the beginner is not compelled to remove the rubbish before commencing his own work.

Not only has the Science of Medicine made these rapid strides throughout the whole world, but in our country the improvement has been immense and incalculable, during the period I have mentioned, in the means and facilities of imparting this knowledge. During the past twenty or even ten years, the whole system of private instruction has arisen in our cities. Previous to this time, the medical pupil was left pretty much to himself; he entered his name and was turned loose into the doctor's office in the company of a Cullen's Practice and a broken down skeleton, to pick what he could from the fields, which were not always strewed with flowers. He struggled for himself, for his miscalled preceptor was most generally unable to lend him a helping hand. By this treatment, hardy spirits were often reared; occasionally men of talent immerged as they always will immerge from a sea of difficulties however deep, but the general standard was miserably low. Now, on the contrary, these matters are very much changed; the education of medical pupils is more systematized, it is more in the hands of younger men, themselves better educated, whose business it is to educate, and who, familiar with the whole circle of medical science do not limit their instruction to the mere dicta and experience of a single practitioner, give not for truth the crude opinions derived from the so-called experience of a narrow-minded, prejudiced individual, who sees nothing beyond his own little sphere, but are able to offer for intellectual food the concentrated and concocted experience of men in all parts of the world. Systematic books are now written expressly for the student upon all branches of the art. Books, which, far be it from me to lead you to suppose, are intended to prevent the healthy and invigorating exercise of the mind in the search after truth by its own exertions. They are intended not to supersede labor but to incite to it, not to supply the only food but to point out the best and shortest way in which it may be obtained.

The standard of public medical education, I mean that given in Colleges and Universities where degrees are conferred, has very much advanced. The conferring of a degree is considered a more important occasion than formerly; the standard of qualification is higher, the demands are greater; they are even now sufficiently low, but there exists a growing feeling that they must be advanced. And perhaps it may not be utopian to look forward and desire the time when the whole matter of degrees shall be in more responsible hands—a central board uninfluenced by interest or local connections. The real and accomplished student would find it for his advantage, for, in proportion as the difficulties are increased competition would be diminished, and the successful would feel them-

selves authorized to demand and would obtain a remuneration for the capital both of time and money invested during the period of their pupilage.

You have entered, then, gentlemen, upon this profession; you have proposed to make of yourselves medical men, medical men not in the vulgar, narrow-minded, worldly sense of the term, but accomplished physicians, skilled not only in the mere routine practice of your art, but educated to a degree that shall place you in the ranks of scientific men, and elevate your calling into that which may aspire to the dignity of a science. It becomes you then to be fully impressed with the responsibility of your position. You are no longer scholars—you have become students—you are now men beginning to grapple with the stern realities of life, and must stand or fall by the foothold that you now create for yourselves. Three years are allowed you, little time enough; the more need that you improve every moment. A word upon the manner of availing yourselves of the advantages offered you here. You have come here to attend a course of medical lectures. These lectures are not intended to supply to you an entire course of medical instruction; this would not be possible in the short space of four months; they are intended to pass over the whole field of the science, to familiarize you with its paths, and to point to you the spots where you may advantageously expend your own labor. The attention to Lectures, then, is not merely a passive act on your parts; you are not here to have a certain amount of knowledge forced into you, even against your own wills; you must lend your aid to the Lecturer, by not only giving him your closest attention, but by careful study during the hours of intermission on the subject of the Lecture. You will and must necessarily hear many things you will not immediately understand, it would be impossible for any man to make himself perfectly clear to an audience of an hundred. The substance must be remembered by them and studied out afterwards. Of many of the lectures you will find it for your advantage to take notes, writing them out afterwards, these notes once written will be of little use; the advantage has been received in recalling the Lecture to your mind, as also from the fact that your attention has been more closely applied during the hour of lecture, as without some such aid you will find it a little difficult to confine your minds several hours in succession; of others of the Lectures, purely demonstrative, notes are not so important, but you will experience great assistance by running over in your text-books the subject of the Lecture immediately after its completion, thus fixing it in your minds. I need not say that you will always find the gentlemen occupying the chairs of the college not only ready to

offer you any necessary assistance, but pleased with the zeal on your part which prompts you to ask it.

Gentlemen, I conclude as I began; I trust the months we are to spend together, collected as we are from all parts of this widely extended territory, may be to us months of pleasure,—of pleasure from receiving, and from imparting instruction well received and appreciated. At the conclusion of the term we shall part, many of us forever, but may we never have any but pleasant remembrances connected with the time we have spent in our respective relations the one with the other.

ERRATUM.—On page 4, 7th line of 2d paragraph, for "The wise man has said," &c. read "*A* wise man," &c.