Introductory Lecture

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF

GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL,

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MR. TREASURER AND GENTLEMEN,—Another year has fled ; again the sun of a new one has risen to witness the busy hum, the ceaseless activity within these walls ; and once more it is permitted us to gather together here to commemorate the advent of another session. To many of you, now for the first time here, it is of an importance not to be overrated—the commencement of a new life, one which has more influence than all the others in stamping the character of your manhood for good or for evil.

Gentlemen, the noble phalanx of those who have preceded me in this place, to welcome those who have preceded you, is made up of names illustrious in the history of the healing art ; who, loving their profession, their hospital, and their school, and delighting to instruct, always gave a hearty welcome to the student within these halls. But I am sure, however eloquent many of them were, however much their hearts warmed as they saluted them in the name of Guy's Hospital School,—I say, whatever their feelings and their power of expression, they could not bid them enter with a welcome heartier than I do you now. And in doing so, perhaps, upon strict analysis of the feeling, there may be found a little leaven of the old Adam—a little taint of pride : shall I call it taint ? Gentlemen, call it what you will ; we may be pardoned, indeed I feel sure that before six months are passed we shall be pardoned by you, if we do with some kind of self-complacency invite you here. We do, I confess it, take pleasure in showing the hoards of gold we possess ; with as much satisfaction as the miser shows his piles of treasure, but with this essential difference, that instead of clutching and grasping it for our own selfish ends, we offer you all we have. Take it—use it freely—divide it all among you ; for, like the widow's meal and oil, it will not fail. Like Egyptian wheat, the seed of knowledge brings forth seven-headed fruit ; or as a spring from the mountain, spreading out into all the ocean, returns in vivifying showers on its mountain cradle, so through you will the knowledge you have gained here flow over the whole world, to be reflected back with increased lustre on your *alma mater*. It is to you, gentlemen, the world will look as the representatives of Guy's Hospital and its school, and it will form its inference of the nature of the fountain from the stream ; therefore, wheresoever you go, while you sustain the dignity of the profession generally, you will, like your predecessors have done, keep up the old reputation.

It is now 110 years since a medical school was attached to this hospital, a sort of offshoot of St. Thomas's : some of the lectures were given there, some here. I shall not weary you with the history of its rise and separation from the sister hospital ; suffice it to say that at no time since its foundation was it ever so large as at the present time. At no time, too, have the students better distinguished themselves before the various examining bodies. Look to the results of the examinations at the University of London. An analysis of the calendar shows that for every 100 Guy's men who have passed, 138 prizes—I mean scholarships, exhibitions, and medals—have been taken by them ; the largest number of any school, the nearest approach to us being 86 to the 100 men. In your endeavour to imitate these results, of course much depends upon the manner in which you avail yourselves of your opportunities and on the good use you make of them ; but for the extent to which those opportunities are offered for your use, and the ample way in which every resource of this great hospital has been developed, we have to thank the Governors, and more particularly our Treasurer. I say it without fear of contradiction, in no hospital in

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this metropolis is to be found anything better, in few so good, in the way of opportunities and facilities for study at the bedside in every department, general and special. Once more, then, gentlemen, heartily welcoming you, I must to the important part of my subject.

I said just now, the *first* year of the student's life was the most important of all during his sojourn here. In that year, in my experience, the stamp is placed upon a man for good, for evil, or for nonentity. Whatever the reasons may have been which induced you to join the profession of medicine, I am sure of this, that there is none other in which the whole faculties of the mind are so well bent to the benefit of the human race, to the relief of diseases of the mind and body, and to the expansion and ennobling of the powers of your own mind at the same time, as in the one you have now chosen.

Beyond the duty and high privilege of man to endeavour as far as possible to assimilate his mind to the Divine Essence, the next great end of man's life, as taught by the Great Master, is to alleviate poor suffering humanity ; and this is the object of the profession you have selected. There are doubtless other occupations which hold forth the promise of greater gain ; nay, there are other professions which offer hopes of greater fortunes and higher rank ; but there is none which, whilst it enables us to gain a competent living, will permit us to carry forward in ourselves the great end for which we were created, and to further the design of universal brotherhood. Ours, gentlemen, is a noble profession, the following of which honestly and to our best abilities brings its reward with it ; one in which, however ill-requited in a pecuniary sense we may sometimes be, however ill-acknowledged and ill-understood our services now and then may appear, yet at each sunset we can with comfort reflect that we have not altogether "lost a day." Besides these things, in following this profession, you will have opportunities of seeing the highest qualities of man, as well as the most opposite : human nature endeavouring to raise itself above the earth, yearning after the great ideal, stretching out one hand, as it were, to the heavens, to bring down, if he can, a ray of its ineffable light : on the other side of the scene you may behold the same nature beneath the level of the beasts ; endeavouring to efface all traces of the divine ; extinguishing every spark of light ; bringing both mind and body, by drink, sensuality, and crime, into a state worse than that of the brutes. Both these you may perhaps see in the same hour. Let them be a lesson to you ; let not your minds become blunted to them by their frequency : while the former tends to give us, perhaps, a too high notion of humanity, let the other warn you how delicate a growth is the human intellect and soul, how readily it can be defaced and destroyed by want of culture and need of care, and how responsible is the custody with which our Creator has entrusted it to us.

You will, I am sure, readily perceive that if this profession has such noble ends in view as those I have just indicated, it must also have much responsibility. It has, gentlemen, much responsibility, and it is important that you should at once recognise this fact. In following it, both in its study and in its practice, you ought to have much anxious solicitude. Consider that you will hold the lives of others in your hands ; upon your actions, right or wrong, often will depend the life of another, and that of one who, in confidence in your skill, had placed the whole conduct of the case on you, as far as human skill is capable of managing. Am I not right when I say that both the responsibility and the anxiety are great ? I answer, it is so, and it is well that now you should be prepared to accept the truth. If you come here for the purpose of learning a profession which places the lives of others in your hands, and, instead of doing so to the best of the ability with which you are endowed, you neglect the opportunities presented you, and yet go away to practise your profession—accepting the trust without the power of really fulfilling it—you will indeed incur a heavy responsibility, and add grievously to the anxieties of a post already sufficiently well stored with them. You will be acting dishonestly to yourselves and dishonestly to your patients.

In whatever way you may try to subdue the thought, I am sure that the consciousness of wilful ignorance and incompetence will not tend to alleviate the cares of your professional life. Suppose for a moment you are called upon early in your career to attend one whose life is all to you ; suppose you have no one to consult, and everything in the treatment rests on your judgment alone, would your conscience and your anxiety be then glossed over by common-place excuses ? No ! Enter, then, gentlemen, upon the threshold of your calling with an inward resolution to act honestly in your studies, and boldly and manfully to overcome idleness and indolence.

In speaking of the responsibility of the profession, do not understand me to say that we are responsible for every life placed in our hands. What I mean is, we are responsible for the attainment of so much knowledge as our time and abilities permit, so that we may conduct a case confided to us to as successful a termination as possible. If we can faithfully satisfy ourselves that we have to the best of our power seized every opportunity of informing our minds as to the best mode of treatment, and then honestly carry it out, we are wholly relieved of further accountability. Now, to attain the necessary knowledge, and to make the best of every advantage, there is only one way, and that is to *work*.

Work is the beginning, the middle, the end of our profession,—work, steady, earnest, manly. It is at once our privilege and our duty. Work, then, as if you meant it—with energy and with the concentration of all your powers. Then you will keep up the character long since earned by Guy's men, that of "workers."

But as the time of your sojourn here is short—too short, indeed, for the acquirement of much more than a fair insight into the principles upon which the art of medicine is founded, and their mode of application, it is highly important that you should conduct your work in the most productive mode; because it is quite possible to slave and drudge on at amassing a large amount of facts without their being of any but the slightest advantage in practice: a large pack of cards without the knowledge to play them.

First, then, in the pursuit of your studies, it is proper to remember the two parts of which medicine consists—1st, of the principles; 2ndly, of the art. First, of the principles upon which it is based, the knowledge of which is called "science;" and the art, the means by which this knowledge is applied. The profession, as a living active body, requires the judicious combination of both. Without the latter it would be but a *ghost*; without the former, but a *dead body*: and he is the best and most accomplished practitioner who unites these in their proper proportions. But to you who are just about to begin your studies, I would say that there is some little difference in the value of the two elements. Although the study of them can proceed simultaneously,—and you should lose no chance of seeing the application of our science in the wards,—still during the first two years of your sojourn here you had better spend the greater share of your time and energies in compassing the principles.

Chemistry, anatomy and physiology, comparative anatomy and physiology, botany and physiological botany, will be studied by you in the first two years. They are indispensable to you; they are more or less so thoroughly interwoven into the healing art, that you can make use of them at every moment; helping you to understand this phenomenon or that, enabling you to explain by close analogy facts which would otherwise be inexplicable, giving you a broad insight into the bearing of circumstances constantly coming before you in practice. Some of these sciences which I have just now named are not all equally important to the healing of the body; but I am almost at a loss to say which is the most and which the least valuable. Anatomy and physiology perhaps may rank highest, and botany the least; yet how can we understand animal physiology without vegetable, or human without comparative? The whole Cosmos is so inseparably linked together in one great bond, that as there is no Pantheism in Nature, neither are there separate studies in medicine.

And then, having mastered these subjects, and acquired a knowledge of the plan upon which nature in general, and especially human nature, is carried on, you will be prepared to study those aberrations from the normal state which we call "disease." You will be also able better to study the mode by which Nature herself undertakes to rectify those aberrations, and how to assist her. It is the part, also, of modern medicine carefully to study the natural progress of disease; to note what kinds tend to recovery; what forms tend to the destruction of the patient, and more particularly what conditions of the constitution, both of body and mind, interfere with the ordinary progress of diseases; what outward circumstances influence them, and the extent to which they do so. The study of the natural history of diseases is one of the most important I can recommend to your notice. The study of pathology at the bedside is as important as its study in the dead-house. The greater proportion of diseases, you will find, recover; therefore we know but little of their post-mortem appearances. We must study them by their temporary effects upon the state of the body compared with that of health, which you will have learned by *physiology*. Here, then, is a wide field in which to bring your knowledge to trial. You will want your *chemistry* to assist in

the analysis of the secretions and excretions; *physiology* wherewith to contrast the state of health with that of the disease before you; *anatomy* to point out the organ affected; your *minute anatomy* and use of the *microscope* to identify new formations, or to discover disintegrated tissue.

And having, after careful search, made out the disease and its influence on the body,—and the degree itself is influenced by the state of the body and the mind,—you will then proceed to study the mode of treatment. This you will have already to a certain extent done empirically, and will continue to do so more or less; for you will find that to a considerable extent practice will and must be *empirical* and *experimental*. This is particularly the case in the first use of remedies. Their first effect has been found empirically; but when their effects are known, then we can proceed to make use of them rationally. For instance: amongst others, the effect of a purgative is found by experience to increase the peristaltic action of the bowels—to increase the secretion from their surface; and knowing thus much, we make use of this effect for various purposes: to carry offensive irritating matter out of the bowel, to draw from other parts excess of fluids with which they are surcharged, and so on. This application we employ rationally, with a definite object and intention.

In making your observations,—and let them be always at the bedside, not in the closet,—you will find much in present practice which differs from the older type. In former times—perhaps not so distant altogether—disease was a great entity; inflammation a violent enemy who would to a certainty destroy us if we did not kill him, and the patient was made the neutral ground—the lists over which the contending foes were to rush. Thus, gentlemen, often was the patient trampled into the dust before one or the other gave way. Now we the rather look upon the patient as a beleaguered city: we throw in our supplies from time to time, leaving the garrison to fight it out, and as long as it is equal to the contest, we do not sap its supplies by adding to its numbers. This is the plan of modern medicine to a great extent, and it will be your part, by close observation, to inquire whether the garrison demands extraneous aid, and to find out the nature of the supplies required. It will be your duty to study the effects of remedies closely—very closely,—in order that you may not overlook their real action, nor attribute to them effects which really do not belong to them. You must study their effect, as far as possible, on the body uninfluenced by disease; also, what is more to the point in the business before you, their action in disease. Remedies act very differently on the body at different times, and under similar diseases they may have an almost contrary effect. It will require long and patient bedside study before you can make yourselves masters of the subject; and yet this is the end of our labour—this is the goal we seek. We desire not to be *spectators* only, but *helpers* also. Of what avail, then, all our travail, if in the end we are unable to render assistance? Devote, then, your powers of observation, which your former study will have taught you to exercise and improve,—first, to the detection of the disease, and then to the employment of the means for its removal. But when I speak of *remedies* I do not confine myself to any one class. By remedies you must understand, not drugs only, but every agent which can be brought to assist towards the desired end—the removal of evil, the induction of good influences, external applications, internal remedies; all these, and anything else which can be brought to bear against the adversary. But do not let your minds be clouded with the tradition of former years; do not let the old notion, that remedies mean drugs only, influence your actions. This idea still exists amongst the public to a great extent, who from the actions of our predecessors have learnt to identify the whole of legitimate medicine with the art of prescribing drugs. But let me warn you lest you fall into the contrary error, into which some have run—namely, that of underrating their use, so as practically to deny them any efficacy. This has resulted from many causes, one of which is the puffing up of remedies before they have been properly tested; another is the combining a new remedy with an old one of acknowledged efficacy, thus giving it a fictitious and borrowed reputation. It will be for you carefully to sift out their real effect for yourselves, not taking it on the vague recommendation of tradition.

You will by this time have perceived that your task is by no means a light one. Medicine is not an exact science, and therefore its treatment cannot be exact; numerous circumstances, many unknown, may modify or subdue the features of a disease, so as to render its detection or diagnosis almost impossible. Influences sometimes the least suspected tend to form variations from the ordinary types. These variations may become more or less permanent, and thus there would

seem to be a new disease. It would be well, however, for you to be especially careful in guarding your minds against a common error—namely, that of believing a disease to be invariable in all its characters. Nothing can be more wide from fact. Many diseases diverge widely from their type or genus, and run insensibly into others. Sometimes the typical forms may be most prevalent, sometimes certain of the varieties. Strictly to tie down a disease to its typical form, and to exclude all variations, is to act contrary to nature.

The task then before you requires a mind improved by exercise and habit to the full employment of its powers in close and careful observation. In this you will have already made some progress by your earlier studies, and you must continue to exercise these faculties, not only during your studies here, but for the remainder of your life.

The task before you requires energy—continuous application; for the more you learn, the more remains to be learned. Think not, when you leave this hospital, that you have nothing more to acquire; that you have reached the end of your journey. If you do your duty here, you will have only learned how to learn: students we all are to our graves. To grasp the all-hidden wonders of the universe is beyond the power of our finite mind. All that can be said of the most accomplished philosopher is that he is *less ignorant* than his fellows. We have much to learn, and much to unlearn. What we *do* learn let us do so in a humble, teachable spirit; acknowledging as we go on our liability to err, and the necessity of frequently retracing our footsteps, lest we go too far out of the right road. To each of us the way to scientific truth is up a rocky path, sometimes with scarcely foothold; it is slippery like a glacier-face, but by indomitable perseverance we hew out our ice-steps; slowly ascending, at last reach a resting-place. There we look around. But above us it leads to another steep ascent: we mount, and again we rest. But upwards still "Excelsior" beckons us; "Excelsior" is still the cry till we can mount no longer. Such is the course of human efforts to attain to knowledge. Let us be humbly content to mount as high as our life permits us, being sure that human efforts can never penetrate the whole of Nature's mysteries. Let us be content to acknowledge the truth of Bacon's first aphorism: "Man, as the minister and interpreter of nature, does and understands as much as his observations on the order of nature, either with regard to things or the mind, permit him; and neither knows nor is capable of more."

The task before you also requires a strict love of truth, of rigid accuracy. I mean such a love of truth which not only causes you to tell accurately all you know, but urges you to see that you know all you can; which urges you to the completest examination possible. This will be very important to you in after life; for you will find that when you attain a high status in your profession (and many now before me I have no doubt will), your statements will be accepted as completely reliable, partly because, on the one hand, your general truthfulness will be held a guarantee; and partly because, as you will have devoted much time to the subject, you are consequently supposed to know more than others. Be careful, then, that your word may be thoroughly reliable, lest your reputation be as a house built on sand, and lest the knowledge you have pretended to advance prove a delusion.

Besides these points connected with your work which I have already indicated, there are some others to which it will be useful for you to attend. Weigh well all the remarks which fall from your instructors; consider that the observations they make are the result of much experience and careful consideration. In your commencement you must take them on trust, till by-and-by you are able, by the same care which they have exercised, to judge for yourselves the correctness of what they say. For a time you want leading-strings; some day you shall walk without help. Take every opportunity of seeking instruction. Do not be afraid of asking in any point of difficulty; and I can assure you, in the name of my colleagues, that we shall at all times be happy to answer questions put to us for the purpose of information. We consider, in order to learn the details well, that conversational instruction is the best. We are delighted to see you take such interest in your profession as will lead you to inquire in a difficulty. In this respect I believe the instruction at this school differs much in degree from others; and I believe much of the high standing which its students take is in a great measure owing to this peculiarity. Gentlemen, the reciprocal understanding which has always existed between the students of this school and their teachers was never greater than at the present time. Long may this pleasant gentle relationship continue! Long may we be as one body, united for the same great purpose—namely, the advance-

ment of our common profession. And, indeed, we ought not but to have this mutual feeling. Ask yourselves, for what are we endeavouring? What is our earnest desire? None less than this: to benefit our race; to alleviate human suffering. Then, should we not be united? Let us go hand in hand, lest we fail in the attainment of our object. Is it seemly that soldiers in the same holy crusade should be otherwise than a united band? While, however, we give you the information you seek with much delight, we do so with much anxiety. We know that, notwithstanding all the pains with which we have gained the knowledge we seek to impart, we are ourselves but learners, exposed to the imperfections to which all human things are liable. When we give you the results of our more recent inquiries, we can only give you of the ore quarried latest from the gold mine of truth. You must crush and wash it, and it may some day, perhaps, yield you the pure metal. When, then, you find opinions vary, as in the nature of things they must, do not put them aside in despair of arriving at the right one, but carefully weigh them all; amongst each you will find greater or smaller grains of truth. It may be in their combination you will find the essence. And yet, although we teach you with humility, as all must who have stood face to face with Nature's deep enigmas, still much has been done. Of late great advances have been made in general science, and also in our own profession. A greater body of workmen have been engaged: the workman, individually, reaping the benefit of those before him, has been able to commence from a higher step than they. And thus we may say with confidence that, although in some points much remains to be done, we have to a great extent a sure foundation—definite clear rules to guide us, with as little uncertainty as is to be found in human matters generally. Thus you will find the ground to tread upon at first will be firm, and your course tolerably clear. It is as you advance to fuller knowledge that uncertainty will attend your steps: the complications and varied involutions with which natural science is beset will make you less confident of your knowledge, and more careful to secure the right road.

There is another mode by which you will gain improvement in your profession, besides instruction from your teachers: this is by discussing amongst yourselves the diagnosis of the various cases you will see here. It is an excellent plan for a few of you to visit a patient together before the physician or surgeon goes round, to talk over the diagnosis amongst yourselves, to form some kind of opinion on the case, and then to compare it with that of the physician or surgeon. I should advise you to make up your mind, if possible, to some kind of opinion, and then, if anything be not clear to you, to ask for an explanation. Most of the cases require to be carefully, slowly, and quietly gone through, without restraint. It is impossible to do this while going round rapidly, particularly in physician's cases; but if you have examined and discussed the case already among yourselves, then all the remarks which fall from him are of infinitely more value. There is another plan of discussion, upon which I can scarcely lay too much stress. This is more in public—namely, at the Pupils' Physical Society. There are two palpable advantages to be derived from it. First, it sets you to think. In the getting up a paper, in hearing one read, or in joining the discussion afterwards, your mind is stimulated to thought, which has a most beneficial effect, and that perhaps for life. Secondly, you have an opportunity of accustoming yourselves to speaking in public. This is a subject remarkably neglected by our profession, who, taken as a body, are reputed to be the worst public speakers. Take every opportunity of getting on your feet. Say something—sense if you can; if not, why then nonsense: and I am sure that, even if you should begin with nonsense, by practice you will in time attain to the utterance of wisdom. Let me, then, commend to your patronage the well-tried institution, the Pupils' Physical Society of Guy's Hospital.

When I advised you before to cultivate by all means at your command your powers of observation, so as to make them more and more accurate, do not forget that in the learning and practice of our profession we are largely dependent upon our hands. I need hardly point out how important their proper use is to us whether as physicians or surgeons. Chemical investigations, physiological research, anatomy, microscopical examinations, constantly require the delicate use of our fingers. The careful employment of manipulations for a diagnosis is required every day: the varied modes of percussion and palpation, the recognition of frictional sounds, all demand the intelligent cultivation of the use of the fingers. I can well remember how strongly, and with what pains, abdominal examinations were dwelt upon by our great master of diagnosis, the late Dr. Addison. I need not say how necessary is the free use of the

hands in surgery and midwifery; but perhaps delicacy of finger-movements reaches its culmination in ophthalmic surgery. Take, then, every opportunity of using your fingers as well and as delicately as you can, so that by constant practice you make their movements the accurate and instant expression of your will. To assist to this end, you will find painting and drawing very useful, as also the common rules and practice of carpentry—a knowledge which will be of great value, particularly to the surgeon.

Gentlemen, to be successful, and thoroughly so, you must gather assistance from every wind of heaven; you must collect sands from every shore. The difference between men is not so much dependent on their different mental capacities as it is on the amount of their general knowledge. The time is gone by when a man was considered to know the more of his own branch the less he knew of others. The old specialist was too frequently the type of special ignorance; and when I speak of *specialism*, I do not intend only the minute subdivisions into which practice is divided, but I mean the greater divisions of surgery and medicine. There have been physicians who have boasted that they were profoundly ignorant of surgery, and surgeons that they knew nothing of medicine. The exclusive practice of any one branch has done much to retard our advancement, each one on his separate line of rail using different ideas and phraseology. No doubt it is convenient in hospitals to divide the work, and it is necessary in the profession to separate it into different sections; without this we could not be nearly so efficacious. But this I say, that this division is attended with many disadvantages. When the cases are placed in the separate divisions, you are apt to consider that the diagnosis is already made out. Perhaps you are the obstetric clerk: a case of abdominal tumour is admitted; visions of ovariectomy rise rapidly before you, and the operation is anxiously anticipated. But the case proves to be ascites; it is visited no longer; it is not an obstetric case.

There is a great disadvantage in all this. In private practice you will not find your patient already classified for you; over the bed will hang no diagnosis written up; you will have no teacher to correct your opinion.

Recollect, there is no division in nature. The body is all one; its exterior and interior are amenable to the same laws of health and disease. The surgeon should be an excellent physician, and the physician well versed in surgical disease, before he can practise well his own division; and he is the best qualified to practise as a specialist who, with the knowledge of his own branch, is least ignorant of those of others. How immeasurably greater is the benefit of studying in a large hospital like this of ours, where every legitimate division is to be seen in due combination, over study at hospitals devoted exclusively to one subordinate branch. Do not lose sight of these great advantages, nor be specialists in your study.

Gentlemen, I have given you but a sketch, a slight outline, of what you should do to attain a knowledge of your profession. It will be for you to fill up the details. If you are imbued with right principles and motives, I do not fear the result. I have spoken to you as to earnest devotees, determined to succeed, and anxious only to know how best to do so. You who now for the first time come here are entering on a new life. You are more or less free from the restraints necessary to boyhood. You are in this great metropolis free to act as you feel inclined. You will see thousands of temptations to idleness and vice: some so specious that the thorn can scarcely be discerned beneath the rose; and some which, by their very blazonry and frequency, gradually so blunt the edge of resistance, that at first they are tolerated, then allowed; and you will need all your strength, all your powers, and all the aid you can command, to withstand the enemy. Recollect you have within you a constant longing after the Good, a constant yearning after the Right: quench it not; nurture it well. It is like an aurora: when extinguished, all will be utter darkness. Battle, then, nobly for its maintenance. A love of truth, gentlemanly demeanour, a conscientious discharge of your duty, and a kind and courteous manner, will, while they elevate you, tend to keep up the high status of our profession. You will hereafter in the discharge of your duty find many difficulties (and who does not?) and many dangers: the *difficulties* you will overcome by resolution to follow the right path; the *dangers* you will brave by that spirit of devotedness and Christian feeling which has always distinguished our profession—which has urged its followers to succour the dying amid pestilence, amid showers of bullets, or on the sinking ship. Need I fear that *you*, devoted to so glorious a profession, will, with all these noble examples before you, shrink from its dangers or quail beneath its difficulties? And in the faithful discharge of your duty I know of nothing of more value than a

kind manner. To those of you who have been laid on a bed of sickness I need not speak; *you* have experienced the effect of kind words and gentle actions. To you who, in the full enjoyment of health, know not the weakness of body nor depression of mind produced by sickness, I would say, Be very careful lest, in haste or from thoughtlessness, you pain the mind while your skill is endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings of the body. Remember, in addition to this, that there may be a spirit ground down by care and want, or a heart pierced through by sorrow: add not another shaft, but speak gently and in kindness.

There is one other appeal I would make to you to urge you not to flag in the prosecution of your studies. Think of those at home who have for many years watched over you with an anxiety which you can yet scarcely appreciate; who, now you are launched out on the wide sea of life, are doubly anxious for your welfare. Every success you gain will be a greater source of pleasure to them than to you; it will repay them something of the debt you owe them.

Allow me to detain you a few moments more. Before another annual address will be given from this place, many of you will have ceased to be students; you will be qualified to practise, and then will take your allotted place among men. And your standing will depend very much upon yourselves. The education you have had the opportunity of receiving is such as will fit you for the society of every educated man in the realm; you will not find yourselves out of place in the presence of the highest. All the collateral branches of science, which might to some seem to be superfluous, are those which will give you an advantage over the multitude, and you will be looked up to in consequence. But if you have neglected to acquire these and other points which give you these advantages, then you must not expect to find a shelter within the sanctuary of your profession. The profession, as a body, stands now higher than ever, and will continue to grow in the general estimation; and, as one of its members, you will take a position in accordance. But should your conduct be so unfortunate as to fall beneath that elevated station, then do not expect the professional cloak will be any protection to you. This could never occur except by the status of the profession coming down to *your* level, which God forbid! and which can never be, so long as her sons are in the main true to her.

In all your transactions be very careful of the reputation of your professional brethren. Build not the foundation of your own reputation upon that of another's. It is but an unstable one; it will stand no test of time. Always endeavour to act strictly professionally. If you ask me what are the rules, and where they are to be found, I answer in the word "straightforwardness," and in the golden words "Thy neighbour as thyself." This rule, applied in all honesty, is the basis of intra-professional intercourse. There are some few variations in the mode of its application, the non-observance of which will never lead you into trouble, but which you can easily learn from some older practitioner in any case of doubt.

In the four quarters of the earth you may be scattered, and I know that now and then your thoughts *will* wander back to us, and a wish steal over you that you might just take a look in at the "old place."

To *you* also *our* thoughts will wander, and with them every wish for your success in life. We *cannot* wish you absence of all cares, nor entire freedom from all troubles, because this is not permitted to man; but we *do* wish you that energy and perseverance which will overcome them; that steady heroism which will defy all odds; that self-reliance which only a good knowledge of your profession can give you; and that good name which an upright character will surely bring you. These things, gentlemen, we wish you. If you desire *more*, then if it be worth possessing, we wish you *that* also.

And now, in conclusion. To all I would say, do not suppose that because I have told you of the dangers and difficulties of the great battle of life, there are no victories before you, no chaplets for the victors. Not by violent assaults will you reach the parapet, but slowly and by regular approaches; and then you will gain possession, not perhaps of enormous wealth, not of highest titles, not of much leisure, but of the consciousness of having done your duty to the best of your ability, of having all your lifetime endeavoured to assuage human suffering, and of having earned a name and reputation amongst men which you will leave unsullied to your successors. If, gentlemen, you will bear in mind the principles which I have so faintly indicated, and if you will have the courage and perseverance to put them into practice, then, wherever your lot in life may be cast, and whatever your abilities may be, I can promise you, that which my colleagues and myself most cordially wish you, every success.