

A lecture, introductory to the session, 1881-1882, delivered in the Royal College of Surgeons / by Rawdon Macnamara.

Contributors

Macnamara, Rawdon.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

Dublin : J. Atkinson, printers, 1881.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ef9t5u24>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

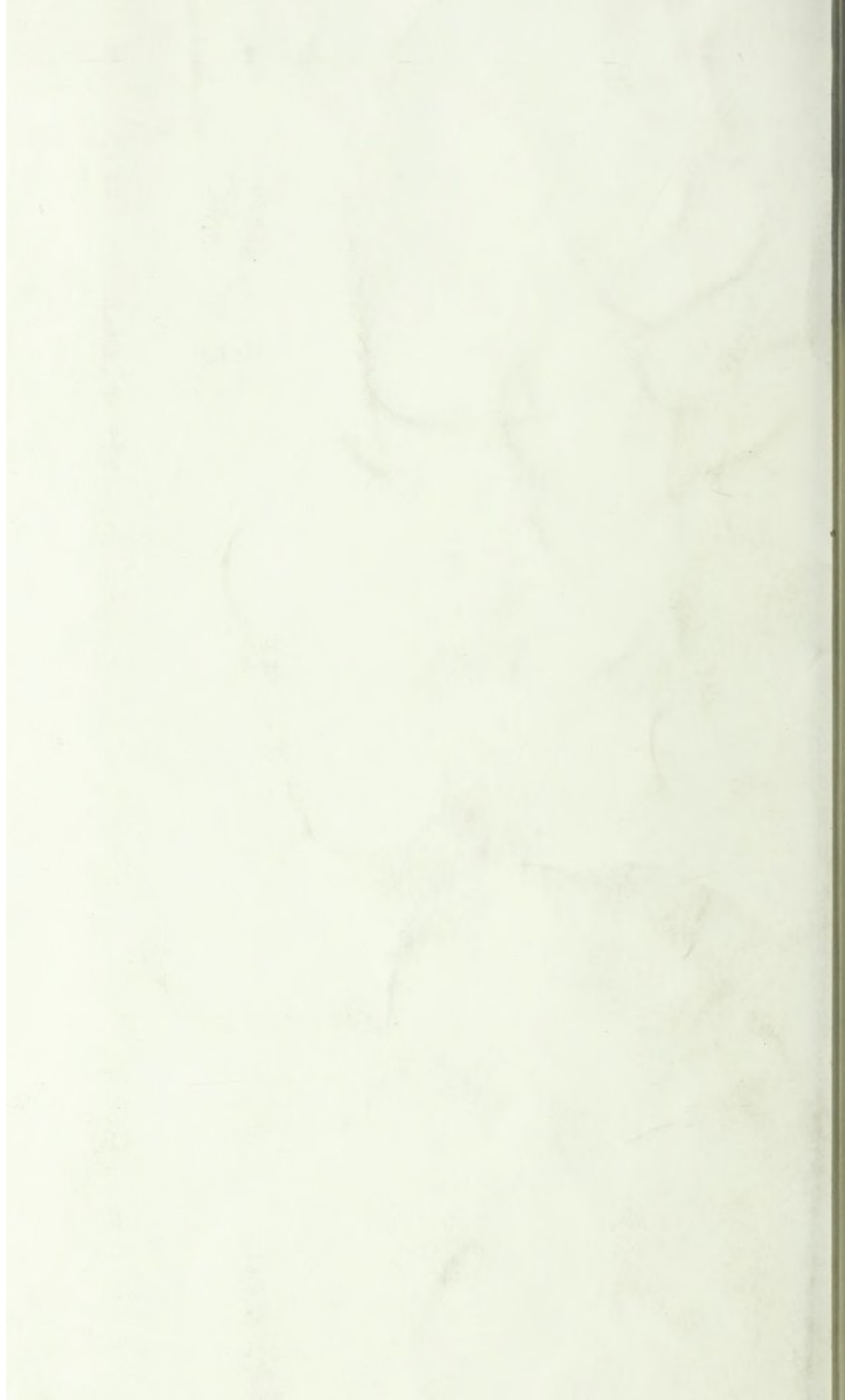
This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





(11)

A LECTURE,
INTRODUCTORY TO THE SESSION,
1881-1882,

DELIVERED IN THE

Royal College of Surgeons,

BY

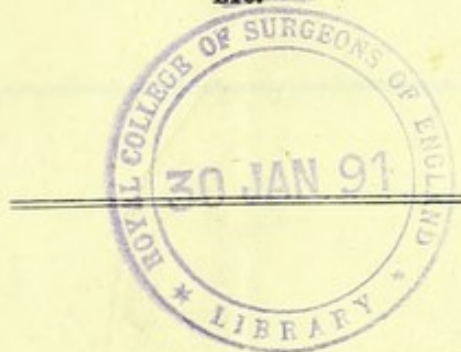
RAWDON MACNAMARA,

SURGEON TO THE MEATH HOSPITAL;

SENIOR SURGEON TO THE WESTMORELAND LOCK (GOVERNMENT) HOSPITAL;

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA TO THE COLLEGE;

ETC.



DUBLIN:

J. ATKINSON & CO., PRINTERS, 72, GRAFTON-STREET.

—
1881.

A LECTURE

INTRODUCTORY TO THE SESSION

1881-1882

DELIVERED IN THE

Legal College of Surgeons

BY

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

OF THE BAR AT THE INNER TEMPLE

AND OF THE BAR AT THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

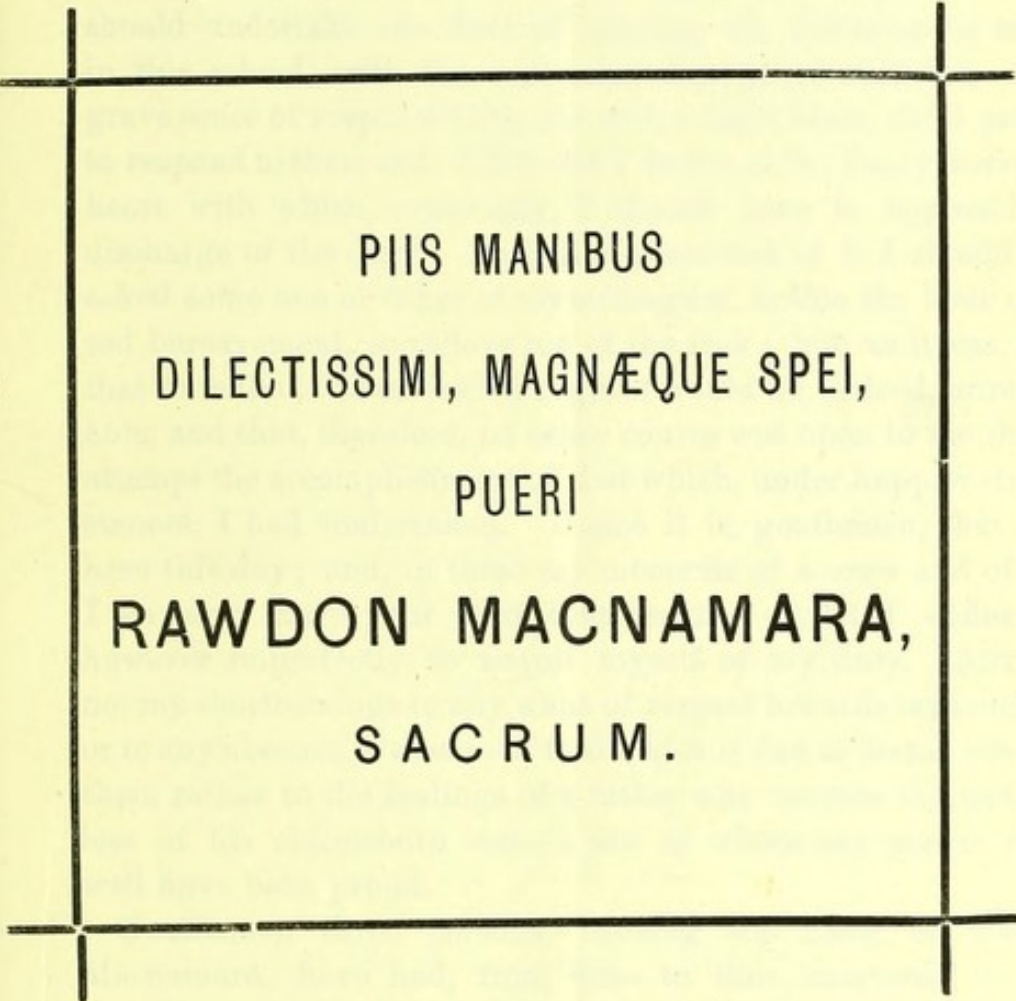
ESQ.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY J. J. MURPHY, 11, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1881



PIIS MANIBUS
DILECTISSIMI, MAGNÆQUE SPEI,
PUERI
RAWDON MACNAMARA,
SACRUM.

PIIS MANIBUS

DIRECTISSIMI, MAGNEQUE SPEI,

PUERI

RAWDON MACNAMARA,

SACRUM.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

When, some short time ago, my valued colleagues, with their usual kindness, announced to me their flattering wish that I should undertake the duty of opening the forthcoming session in this school, with the customary Inaugural Address, with a grave sense of responsibility, yet with a light heart, did I promise to respond to their call. Little did I dream of the heavy, sorrowful heart with which, eventually, I should have to approach the discharge of the duty. Had time permitted of it, I should have asked some one or other of my colleagues, in this the hour of my sad bereavement, to relieve me of the task ; but, as it was, I felt that to make of them such a request would be, indeed, unreasonable, and that, therefore, no other course was open to me than to attempt the accomplishment of that which, under happier circumstances, I had undertaken. Hence it is, gentlemen, that I am here this day ; and, in these my moments of sorrow and of woe, I earnestly crave your kind consideration whilst I endeavour, however imperfectly, to acquit myself of my duty. Attribute not my shortcomings to any want of respect towards my audience, or to any absence of a sense of that which is due to them ; attribute them rather to the feelings of a father who mourns the untimely loss of his eldest-born son—a son of whom any parent might well have been proud.

Gentlemen, three persons, bearing the name of Rawdon Macnamara, have had, from time to time, entrusted to their charge a portion of the education of the students in this our great school—my father—myself—my son ; of these the intermediate one alone remains. In tender childhood I had to deplore the untimely death of my revered father ; now in my old age I have to deplore the untimely death of my dearly loved son—nothing of them now remains to me but their memory. Yet in this, my latest trial, do I find some crumb of consolation in the knowledge that my boy died in the discharge of his duty. Fever-stricken he rose from his bed of sickness, and rode seven-and-twenty miles to visit a pauper patient, laid low with yellow fever,

returning the same distance the same day—thereby signing his own death warrant. His end quickly came, and now he sleeps in a foreign land, remote from that of his birth.

Gentlemen, I have yet another son, whose lot is cast in this same perilous clime. This son, attending a child affected with purulent ophthalmia, himself contracted from his patient the same disease, losing thereby the sight of one of his own eyes. When sympathizing with him on his affliction, what was his answer to me? “Yes, father, ’tis true I have lost one eye, but then I have saved two.” Gentlemen, actions and sentiments such as these ennoble our calling—entitling it to rank not as a profession, but a mission! And, believe me, that these are by no means isolated cases, they are, though unrecorded, of daily, if not hourly, occurrence in our ranks.

He died in discharge of his duty! And yet there remains to me one other crumb of consolation which, while it intensifies my regret, tempers my sorrow, and this source of consolation I pray you, my young friends, to lay well to your hearts. From the day that first I learned of my sad bereavement up to this, for hours have I sat striving to bring back to memory one single disrespectful word uttered towards his parents from the lips now closed in death of that dear boy whose loss presses so very heavily on our hearts—’twas a strange occupation you will say—yet picture to yourselves what a sad, aye, heart-rending, comfort it must be to me the reflection that in vain have I done so. Never did son more implicitly obey the Fifth Commandment. Scoffers may say—“he obeyed the injunction, where is the fulfilment of the promise?” ’Tis true, gentlemen, that in the spring time of his years, scarce two months married to one in every respect calculated to add to his happiness, who cheered him in his labours whilst in health, tenderly cared him in his dying moments, and in whose great affliction we must all sympathize, with a bright and happy and prosperous future before him, ’tis true that he ceased from his labours on this earth; but the land which the Lord His Gracious God, through the mediation of our Blessed Saviour, has thought fit to give him, is one “where neither rust or moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through

and steal," and where the length of his days will be measured but by immortality.

Whilst tendering this homage to a dear son's memory, I feel that sympathy—very great sympathy—has to be extended to a College now mourning the recent loss of one of the most distinguished of those who, as Presidents, have ruled over its Councils. Within a few days past, Sir, Death has removed your immediate predecessor. 'Twill be for you, on some future occasion, to do adequate justice to his memory. It would seem an impertinence on my part were I now to attempt to forestall your melancholy privilege; but, as an old fellow-student—as a life-long friend—as one for years associated with him in the administration of the affairs of this College, and in the past year of the affairs of the General Medical Council, I may be permitted to express my sense of the loss our Profession has sustained in his death. When a great one dies, it is a sufficient obituary to announce the fact—Alfred M'Clintock is dead, and this College mourns its loss.

Some few weeks ago, gentlemen, I read in one of our medical periodicals what purported to be an article on that which attracts us here to-day—Introductory Lectures. This article, in a paper which is, presumably, dedicated to the culture and development of Medical Science, wound up with a would-be witty, but, in my opinion, deplorably out of place, burlesque of such addresses. With medical as with dramatic literature, burlesque is the surest evidence of a vitiated and pandering taste. In defiance, however, of such questionable authority, I would wish to say a few words in defence of these time-honored lectures, and, with your permission, gentlemen, shall proceed to do so.—We are told that sermons are preached in stones; in like spirit do I tell you that were meetings such as these to be confined to dumb show, good must inevitably attend them. Seated opposite to each other in solemn silence—teachers and students, "*emeriti et alumni*," recollections on the one hand, anticipations on the other, should irresistibly crop up. Probably the elder portion would throw back their memory to the time when they themselves occupied the students' benches. When, fresh in years, sanguine in hope, full of good resolves, they themselves occupied your

seats, confronting an awe-inspiring President, supported right and left by grave and reverend signiors ; insensibly, yet most solemnly, must the conviction force itself on their minds, that their places have yet to be occupied, in time to come, by you, gentlemen—that the duties which they now discharge must presently devolve on you—that the reputation of the profession which is so dear to them, of this College of which they are so justly proud, eventually must depend upon your exertions and your conduct, gentlemen ; and that it is their bounden duty to fit you now for the adequate discharge, in the future, of such responsibilities. Must not thoughts such as these be food for serious consideration on their part ? Are not they “ sermons in stones ” ? That they are so, I can solemnly assure you, and equally earnestly do I promise you the advice and assistance, whenever you may require them, of the President, and of each individual member of the Council of this College. It is immaterial to them to what school you may belong. They feel themselves to be equally the custodians of the interests and of the welfare of the students of all their affiliated schools ; and whenever any one of you may require their aid or advice, you will find that practically they have adopted as their maxim that of Dido, of old, “ *Tros Tyriusve nullo discrimine mihi agetur.* ”

Having thus described what should be the feelings, were this a Quaker's meeting, of those of my audience who no longer occupy the pupils' benches, I may be asked what, under such circumstances, would be the Students' thoughts. Well then, gentlemen, to the reflecting student a similar train of thought to that which I have just described, but working in an opposite direction, would perforce present itself. He would see seated before him those whose places he should occupy in the future ; a noble ambition should fire his mind, the workings of which would be for good. He should reflect that every professional honour and distinction is within his grasp also, and he should mentally resolve that no exertion should be wanting in his student's career to fit him in after life worthily, when he had won them, to bear these honors and distinctions. Gentlemen, never was a more soul-inspiring sentiment given expression to than that of the great Napoleon, when he said that “ Each soldier of France carries in his knap-

sack the baton of a Field-Marshal." In like spirit do I now tell each student that hears me this day, that he bears on his shoulders the robes of the President of this great College.

Gentlemen, you are entering on a profession the study of which ennobles its votaries. These words do not originate with me, they are the sentiments of one of the greatest living ornaments of the British pulpit—the Rev. Canon Liddon—expressed by him in a sermon which he preached before the International Medical Congress, in St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 7th of last August. Listen to the words of the eloquent and learned divine :—

"And, lastly, the profession of medicine is from the nature, I had almost dared to say from the necessity, of the case a teacher of benevolence. Often we have witnessed the transformation, one of the most striking and beautiful to be seen in life, by which the medical student becomes the medical practitioner. We may have known a medical student who is reckless, selfish, or worse, and we presently behold him as a medical practitioner leading a more unselfish and devoted life than any other member of society. What, we ask, is this something, akin surely to ministerial ordination, which has wrought this altogether surprising change—which has brought with it such an inspiration of tenderness and sympathy? The answer apparently is, that now as a practitioner he approaches human suffering from a new point of view. As a student he looked upon it as something to be observed, discussed, analysed if possible, anyhow lectured upon, anyhow examined in. As a practitioner he is absorbed by the idea that it is something to be relieved. This new point of view, so profoundly Christian, will often take possession of a man's whole moral nature, and give it nothing less than a totally new direction; and thus, as a rule, the medical practitioner is at once a master and a teacher of the purest benevolence. This is true of those great heads and lights of the profession, whose names are household words in all the universities of Europe, and who have some part of their reward at any rate in a homage which neither wealth nor birth can possibly command; but it is even more true, at least in this country, in the case also of many practitioners of whom the public takes no note, and pre-eminently so in the case of the obscure country doctor whose sphere of fame

is his parish or his neighbourhood, upon whom the sun of publicity rarely or never sheds its rays. His life is passed chiefly in the homes of the very poor, and in acts of the kindest and most self-sacrificing service. For him the loss of rest, and the loss of health, is too often nothing less than the law of his work, and as he pursues his career, so glorious yet so humble, from day to day, his left hand rarely knows what his right hand doeth; and yet such men as these, in the words of Ecclesiasticus, maintain the state of the world, while all their desire is in the work of their craft. They pour oil or wine, as can or do few or none others, into the gaping wounds of our social system. They bind and heal, not merely the limbs of their patients, but the more formidable fractures which separate class from class; and unless He Whom with honour we worship on the throne in heaven is very unlike all that He was 1,800 years ago on earth, such lives as these must be, in not a few cases, very welcome indeed to Him, if only for the reason that they are so like one very conspicuous feature of His own."

In these eloquent words, however, there is something, so far as the medical student is concerned, which grates upon my ear. Had the preacher such experience of the class, Mr. President, as we Hospital Physicians and Surgeons have, it is probable that with respect to them he would have used different language. In hospitals as in warfare volunteers have to be sought for for forlorn hopes—When ever did we find in the ranks of our students either cravens or recreants? No, Sir—our experience is that under such circumstances we suffer from an "embarras des richesses"—no disease is too infectious, no duty too arduous, no service too repulsive, to deter them from doing their duty, and doing it gently—tenderly. Listen to the evidence borne by the Editor of one of our medical journals, in a leading article, written in a kindly spirit upon "The modern Medical Student," in which he says that "the dresser and clinical clerk will sacrifice night and day to some desperate effort to help a bad case towards recovery;" and that "rough language, neglect of duty, harshness of manner, coarseness of demeanour, are not the rule, and inevitably lower the student in the eyes of his colleagues." As in Her Majesty's combatant ranks we find the most gallant services

rendered by such boys as Coghill, Melville, and M'Dowell, so amongst our student boys, in the wards of our hospitals, do we find equally gallant work done. No Gazette records their services, but account of them is kept by One who yet will say to them, "well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Gentlemen, I am jealous of the good repute of our medical student class. It is too much the police fashion to attribute to them every youthful extravagance occurring in this city. I think that it would be but a simple act of justice on the part of the police authorities to ascertain, before they dub him as such, whether their prisoner is or is not a medical student. The medical student class is of more importance to the citizens of Dublin than perhaps they are prepared to admit. This night I fancy that they number some twelve hundred in this city. Their expenditure must amount annually to something like one hundred thousand pounds—an important item in a city such as this. That some of these young gentlemen may be a little wild—that some of them may commit acts of which the more sober minded may not approve, is but to state that young shoulders do not carry old heads, and for my own part I am happy to think that they do not do so; yet to justify such broad cast charges by exceptional cases is both illogical and unjustifiable. Released from school or home restraint, cast into the midst of the temptations of a large city, we should rather wonder at the numbers that escape, than the few who fall.

Gentlemen, amongst the various discouragements which you will meet in these, the first steps towards the attainment of the object of your ambition, will be the thoughtless, yet kindly-meant remarks of your acquaintances, their "chaff" as to the value of Medical Men and of their services in the sick room. Be not disheartened thereby—when the hour of danger comes, not so much to themselves, as to those dear to them—parent, wife, child, or husband—these scoffers will yet hang upon your words, will look to you for re-assurance, and will place upon your skill their whole dependence—a solemn charge will be thereby cast upon you. Pray God that you may have had grace, so far as in you lies, to have prepared yourselves for such grave responsibilities. Upon us a large, a very large, amount of responsibility lies, in

seeing that every opportunity is afforded you of mastering in every detail the elements, at all events, of your profession—we are bound to see that hereafter you will have no right to complain of shortcomings on our part in this respect; and the public have an equal right to expect that no one shall be certified to them, by us, as fit to undertake such duties unless we have satisfied ourselves by searching examination of their competency.

These considerations open up to us two large questions—first in order, our duty towards you—next, our duty towards the public. When I say that our first duty is towards you, I say it advisedly—for if we have done our duty by you, we shall have gone a long way in doing it towards the public. Well then, gentlemen, our first duty towards you is to see that your preliminary education has qualified you to enter with advantage upon the study of your profession. It is a proud boast for this College to be able to make, that from its foundation, now one hundred years ago, up to this, it has never yet granted its licence to any one individual who had not previously passed an examination in Arts. Alone in this respect for years did our College stand. Now I am happy to think that at last its example has been elsewhere followed, and that in this kingdom the rule is of universal application. Gentlemen, when you go out into life you will aspire to mix on terms of social equality with the educated classes that surround you. Fancy what mortifications you will be spared if your claims are admitted on other than professional grounds. This alone can occur if society recognizes in your person not only an able medical man, but also one of liberal culture. Besides this there is the more important consideration that minds so trained are better fitted to profit by the special instruction which they will get in our Medical Schools—the ground is, as it were, well prepared for the seed that has to be sown in it, and the result will be a richer and more abundant harvest.

Whilst upon this subject, I should impress upon you, gentlemen, that none of the Licensing Bodies will accept any certificates of attendance on Hospitals or Lectures, unless such are subsequent to your registration as a Medical Student, and that you cannot be so registered unless you have passed the Prelim-

inary Examination in Arts. Exceptions to this rule can now only be sanctioned by the Branch Medical Councils in each division of the Kingdom. In consequence of the attitude for a long time maintained by this College, which permitted the pupil to pass this Examination at any period previous to his presenting himself for examination for its Licence, several young gentlemen find themselves now in a difficulty. I should advise all such to make immediate application at the Branch Medical Council Office, and shall feel pleasure in placing my humble services at their command.

Our next duty is to see, so far as in us lies, that you take advantage of the great opportunities afforded you in the several Medical Schools and Hospitals in this city. This, hitherto, we have only been able to do by making our Examinations of a thoroughly practical and demonstrative character. In Anatomy, by requiring of you to prove your knowledge, scalpel in hand. In operative Surgery, by insisting upon your performing operations upon the dead subject. In Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, by practical tests of your manipulative skill in the employment of chemical reagents, and by your familiarity with the appearances of drugs. In Clinical Medicine and Surgery, by examinations at the bedside of the patients in the wards of our several hospitals. All these, in addition to viva voce and written examinations. Additional confidence is due to the efficiency of these examinations when it is borne in mind that they are conducted by a body of Examiners second to none in the Empire. Gentlemen, who, by their vast experience, know not only how to conduct such examinations, but who also know the amount of knowledge it is reasonable to expect of Students at this early period of their medical career.

Not satisfied, however, with all these measures—measures which I may incidentally tell you are far in advance of those adopted by other Colleges of Surgeons—the Council of this College have for the past two years most laboriously devoted themselves to the preparation of a new scheme for the future conduct of our examinations, and have decided upon one which now awaits but the sanction of the Secretary of State to be the law of the College. Gentlemen, this is not the place to discuss, nor

are you the tribunal to decide upon, the merits of that scheme. But I feel that, without entering on its details, you are entitled to know the principles upon which it is based. Its main principle is a periodic and progressive testing, at the end of each year, of the amount of success which has attended your previous studies. At the end of each year it is proposed to examine you in the subjects of the past session's curriculum, and, if successful, you will be permitted to proceed on to the next year's subjects. In fact the scheme is based pretty much on the lines upon which the Arts courses are constructed in our several Universities. One great good must ensue on the adoption of this scheme. Pupils cannot, in the earlier years of their studies, waste their time, trusting at the last moment by one supreme effort to compensate for past idleness, misspent hours, and neglected opportunities. Parents will have some guarantee that their expenditure—in but too many cases their self-sacrifices—have not all been made in vain, and the Student returning home after an honest and successful session's work, will find his reward in witnessing the flush of pride on an honoured father's cheek—the tear of joy in a beloved mother's eye.

That the scheme is not perfect is but to state that it is of human origin, but certainly I do not think that it is to be condemned, as has been done by some of our English critics, on account of the prominence given in it to the study of Anatomy. Anatomy is the solid foundation upon which all medicine and surgery is based. In the opinion of these critics, the study of Anatomy should cease at the end of the first two years of the Student's professional education. They seem to forget that, in the vast majority of cases, when once the pupil leaves our schools his anatomical studies must terminate. Opportunity and the law will, alike, interfere with his endeavours in after life to make up for any shortcomings in this respect. What opportunity can present itself to the toil-worn Dispensary Doctor to carry on his Anatomical studies? And so far as the law is concerned, under the provisions of the Anatomical Act, he is debarred from so doing, unless in premises specially licensed for the purpose. Gentlemen, look upon those as being your natural enemies who would seek to

curtail the period legally open to you for the pursuit of Anatomical knowledge. In every other branch of medicine you may supplement your deficiencies—not so in Anatomy. Whilst upon this topic, permit me to warn you, my younger friends, against a very insinuating, plausible young gentleman, who will accost you in the earlier period of your attendance in our anatomical halls. In my days this gentleman used to be called “a navigator,” and indeed I am not quite so sure that in times gone by I was not myself a navigator. This gentlemen will offer to assist you in your studies, will take the scalpel out of your hands, and will himself dissect your subject. Be firm in your refusal of all such volunteered aid. His seeming kindness would be your future injury. Whilst declining his proffered favours, you may well make use to him of the expression employed on a memorable occasion by Laocoon, “*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*” Better that your first than that your ultimate efforts should be bungling, and the earlier you begin, the greater will be the prospect of your eventually attaining to that manual dexterity which will prove so important to you in after life.

Gentlemen, it is now thirteen years ago since I gave, in another place, an introductory lecture, in which I summed up the change—the progress—which I myself, since a student, had witnessed in our art. Since then a similar course has been pursued in several addresses delivered by men distinguished in medicine, literature, and in science, culminating in the magnificent orations of Sir John Lubbock at York, and of Lord O’Hagan at our recent Congress. Be not afraid, gentlemen, I am not going, on this occasion, to repeat myself; yet I must be permitted to observe that in modern surgery prominently stand forth three great landmarks—the Ligature,—Anæsthetics,—Antiseptics. Like so many mountains in the midst of an undulating landscape, do these proudly erect themselves—they mark eras in surgery,—and yet who amongst us recognizes in any one of them—finality? No, gentlemen, grand as these conceptions are, they leave still in our minds a sense of incompleteness. Thirteen years ago I gave expression to the sense of unrest which filled our minds with respect to the Ligature; is that sense of

unrest yet tranquillized?—Thirteen years ago I drew attention to the fact that, whilst grateful for the Anæsthetics then at our command, we still were in search of one the employment of which would be free from all risk; have we found it?—Thirteen years ago I stated that “operative surgery is threatened with being completely revolutionized as to its results by the Carbolic Acid treatment of Professor Lister;” has Carbolic Acid fulfilled our anticipations?—The exhaustive statement made within the past few weeks by Dr. Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, at our Social Science Congress, upon what may be termed the “Germ” theory of infectious diseases, can leave but little doubt on the minds of all those who, with his aid, have studied the question, that germs are powerful factors in the production and dissemination of disease. Still it cannot be gainsaid but that the distinguished introducer of Antiseptic Surgery is himself in search of means more efficient in combating such germs than those hitherto employed, and in no other way can he more effectually found his right to be yet considered a great Medical Philosopher. No, gentlemen; that these are mountains we must all acknowledge, but it is only their bases which are yet in view. Their summits are even still enveloped in mists, which call for the warmth emanating from the sun of genius of some one or other of you, in time to come, to disperse. Gird up your loins, therefore, for the task. Be thankful that such is the case. Be thankful that it is reserved for you to complete that which has been so worthily commenced. Be thankful that you have not now to sigh, as had Alexander of old, for other worlds to conquer.

Gentlemen, if there be one cry more offensive to my ears than another, it is the parrot-like persistency with which, in all discussions upon medical reform, the “selfish interests of our medical corporations” is harped upon. How it may be elsewhere I know not, but indignantly do I deny that ever did such unworthy considerations for one moment weigh with those who from time to time have had the affairs of this Corporation in their hands. I freely admit that occasionally we may have been guilty of errors of judgment, but never did we permit sordid considerations to influence our action. Successive Councils have administered our affairs; of them it may be said “Si monu-

mentum requiris, circumspice." Look at our noble buildings—our unrivalled library—our splendid museums—our lecture theatres—our anatomical halls, and, our latest addition, our chemical laboratories, all projected and carried out by the zealous and constant care of those gentlemen who devote themselves, without fee or reward, to the service of this College. Never have we importuned the ears of any Chancellor of the Exchequer to give us assistance. Unaided we have done that, by our own exertions, which in other countries is considered to be the duty of the state. These are the "selfish interests" which have influenced us in the past, and which, I trust, will continue to influence us in the future. Of course these charges are supported by the allegation that all that we have done is for our own benefit or that of our pupils—but is it so? Do not the public reap incalculable benefits therefrom? Are not their medical attendants better qualified to cope with their diseases by having access to such storehouses of knowledge? and how much have they contributed, I may be permitted to ask, towards the defrayment of all the expenditure necessary for their support?—Not one cent. It would, indeed, be a sad day, that upon which legislative enactment should impair the efficiency of an Institution such as this, of which every Irishman should be proud—which has done such good service in the past, and which is proving itself capable of doing even better service in the future.

Gentlemen, I would have but imperfectly discharged my duty did I not state that the very youngest amongst you is entitled to participate, without payment, in every educational advantage open to our Fellows or Licentiates—nay more, with a premium offered you for availing yourselves of these great privileges. The fee for the Diploma of this College includes five guineas for registration—this must be paid sooner or later, but when once paid, need not be paid again. It entitles the pupil, once registered, to almost every collegiate privilege enjoyed by any of our Licentiates—Libraries, Museums, &c., are all open to him during his years of Studentship, and, if paid upon the commencement of his studies, frees him from the fee of one guinea, otherwise to be paid for his preliminary examination. It seems to be a work of

supererogation for me to dwell upon the great advantages you will derive by availing yourselves of this most liberal provision on the part of the College, therefore, I shall not further dwell upon the subject.

Gentlemen, I have nearly arrived at the end of my task, in the discharge of which I would not be satisfied did I not seize this opportunity, probably the very last occasion upon which it will be permitted me to deliver an address in public, to thank each one and all of you, in the present as in the past, for the unvarying kindness, courtesy, and consideration you have extended towards me during the many years I have been engaged in your service. For more than a quarter of a century have I, in various ways, and in different Institutions, been occupied in conducting portions of the education of our Irish Medical Students. Whether in a Tutorial, Professorial, Clinical, or Examinational character, never did I experience aught but generous kindness and forbearance at your hands. In fact and truth, I must acknowledge that your treatment of me through all these years has far exceeded my deserts. As it has been within the walls of this College, so has it been elsewhere. My duties have brought me into contact with the students of my Alma Mater, the time honoured University of Dublin; and with those of the Queen's University. To these also are my grateful acknowledgments due. With respect to the Queen's University, it is the fashion with some parties to speak of it as being dead, a sentiment in which I cannot participate, inasmuch as I can only look upon it as having contracted a matrimonial alliance, thereby undergoing, in consequence of that—ordeal, shall I say—a change of name. In the “Haut ton,” marriage, if a *mésalliance*, is looked upon as being something worse than death—but is this a *mésalliance*? I for one cannot so regard it, so long as such distinguished names are to be found on the Senate of the Royal University; neither should it be lost sight of that the Working Bees, the honey producers of the Queen's University, still remain in the Queen's Colleges in full vigour, and, as a Professor in a rival College, do I say—long may they remain so—“floreant semper.”

Gentlemen, ere we part permit me to offer you a few words of

counsel as to your general conduct—old men are very fond of giving advice. Be it so. But my first charge to you is that you should honour your God, in Himself, and in His works, the last and greatest of which is to be presently entrusted to your care.—Next make it your law, as that of the Medes and Persians, never to taste intoxicating liquors before dinner. I never saw a case of Delirium Tremens in the persons of those who kept that law.—Finally, never descend to jealous-minded rivalry with your compeers, never seek by detraction to gain at their expense honors or distinctions. It is not within your power to command honors or distinctions, but you can do better—you can deserve them, and they would be gained at too high a price if purchased at the cost of your own self-respect. In your intercourse with your fellows, be mole-sighted to their imperfections—eagle-sighted to their virtues: to sum up all in a few words, adopt as your golden rule of life the Divine injunction, “Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.”

Fancy not, Gentlemen, whilst I thus deprecate unworthy rivalry, that I should wish to say one word in disparagement of generous emulation. No, rather would I encourage you to such, by the words placed by Homer in the lips of Glaucus, as the advice given to him on his departure for the defence of Troy, by his father, Hippolochus—“always to aim at excellence and to seek for distinction amongst his fellows.” In the very words of “The blind old man of Scio’s rocky Isle,”

“ Ἀὖεν ἀριστεύειν καὶ ὑπείροχον ἔμμεναι ἄλλων.”

GENTLEMEN, FAREWELL.

12

...to your general conduct—and you are very fond of
giving advice. But let me tell you that you are not
should honour your God, in Himself, and in His works, the last
and greatest of which is to be generally entitled to your ears—
Next mark your law, as that of the Mosaic and Levitical, never
to taste intoxicating liquors, and I never saw a case of
Delirium Tremens in the person of those who kept that law.—
Finally, never descend to jealous rivalry with your com-
patriots, never seek by detraction to gain at their expense honours
or distinctions. It is not within your power to command honours
or distinctions, but you can do better—you can deserve them,
and they would be gained at too high a price if purchased at the
cost of your own self-respect. In your intercourse with your
fellows be most diligent to their imperfections—eagerly to
their virtues: to sum up all in a few words, adopt as your golden
rule of life the Divine injunction, "Therefore, all things, what-
soever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."
Hence, not Gentlemen, while I thus denigrate unworthy
rivalry, that I should wish to say one word in disparagement of
generous emulation. No, rather would I encourage you to such
by the words placed by Homer in the lips of Odysseus, as the
advice given to him on his departure for the defence of Troy, by
his father, Laertes—"always to aim at excellence and to
seek for distinction amongst his fellows." In the very words of
"The blind old man of Sio's rocky Isle,"

GENTLEMEN, FAREWELL.



