

**St. Thomas's Hospital (a brief historical retrospect) : being the inaugural address delivered at the Hospital on Monday, Oct. 2, 1876, on the occasion of the opening of the medical session, 1876-77 / by Francis Mason.**

**Contributors**

Mason, Francis, 1837-1886.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

**Publication/Creation**

London : J. & A. Churchill, 1876.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zm4z2vnx>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

# ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

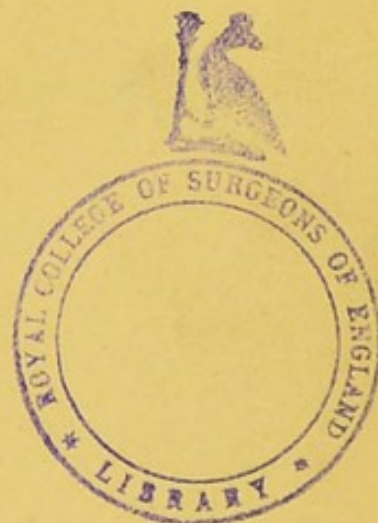
(A BRIEF HISTORICAL RETROSPECT),

9

BEING THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE HOSPITAL  
ON MONDAY, OCT. 2, 1876, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
OPENING OF THE MEDICAL SESSION, 1876-77.

BY

FRANCIS MASON, F.R.C.S.



LONDON:

J. & A. CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1876.

*Price One Shilling.*

THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

1660-1700

BY

JOHN VAN DER HAEGHE

1965

TO  
SIR FRANCIS HICKS,  
TREASURER,

THIS ADDRESS, EMBRACING A SHORT HISTORY OF THE  
ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF  
ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,  
IS, WITH PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY  
THE AUTHOR.



# ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

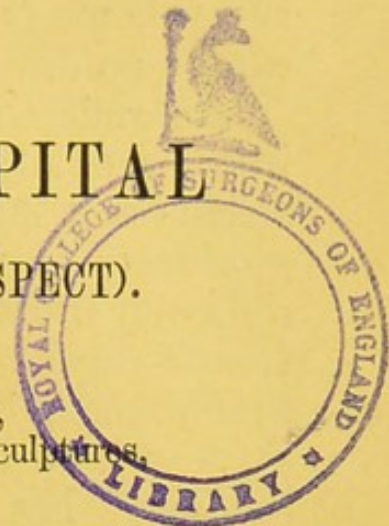
(A BRIEF HISTORICAL RETROSPECT).

“ We may build more splendid habitations,  
Fill our rooms with paintings and with sculptures,  
But we cannot  
Buy with gold the old associations !”

MR. TREASURER AND GENTLEMEN,

In obedience to the flattering request made to me by my colleagues, it is my pleasing duty to offer a few remarks of an introductory character at the commencement of another Medical Session. In accepting the somewhat arduous task that has been entrusted to me, whilst I do not hesitate to say that I fully recognise the responsibility that awaits me, I, at the same time, derive much comfort in the reflection that I feel I can confidently rely, not only on your patient attention, but also on your kind support and encouragement.

There is a notion, becoming every year more prevalent, that such addresses as I have now the honour of delivering should be abandoned,—on the plea that they are unnecessary—that the subjects to be considered have been thoroughly exhausted, and that it is impossible to introduce anything like novelty into them so as to rivet the attention, and awaken interest in the minds of those for whom they are specially intended. No novelty, indeed! It seems to me that this is neither the time nor the place to introduce novelties, nor is it a fitting arena to discuss vexed questions; nay, rather it is, I think, an occasion on which we may



speak home truths referring to matters on which there can be no difference of opinion.

In reflecting on the antiquity of the hospital, and in contemplating the names of the many eminent physicians and surgeons who in former years laboured so gloriously in its suit and service, I, at least, have no difficulty in finding a suitable theme for our consideration to-day. It may be interesting, and perhaps profitable then, if for once we look *at home*, and take a page or two out of the annals of *our own history*, and see what has been done by *our ancestors*. And, in speaking of ourselves, I hope it will be clearly understood that I have no desire to draw invidious comparisons between the work done at this and at other hospitals, when there is such abundant proof that all are labouring so nobly and so honourably for the general good of mankind.

I shall venture then, with your permission, 1st, to refer briefly to the history of the hospital in which all here must take the keenest interest; 2nd, I shall allude to some of the more distinguished men of their day, whether pupils or teachers (for they were all students in the strict sense of the word); and lastly, it may be useful to inquire how we, whether as pupils or teachers, are to become worthy successors of these great and good men.

Respecting our history, you must know that St. Thomas's Hospital is one of the five ancient Royal Hospitals of the City of London; two, it must be remembered, are non-medical, *i.e.*, Christ's Hospital, or the Bluecoat School, and Bridewell; and three are medical: St. Bartholomew's, Bethlehem, and this, "within the girdle of whose walls we meet to-day." About the eleventh century it was the custom to found monasteries for the purposes of devotion, and amongst other places a convent was erected not far from the site of the old St. Thomas's Hospital, in Southwark,—indeed, it was placed on exactly the

spot where, at the present day, the well-known cathedral-like church of St. Saviour's Southwark stands. This convent (says Stow) was built and liberally endowed by "a pious mayden," named Mary, who, besides having property left her by her parents, accumulated a considerable fortune by conveying persons in a ferry-boat over the River Thames "before any bridge was builded." Her employment compelling her frequently to recross the Thames, she went by the Saxon name of Over-rie, *i.e.*, over the river or over the water, and to commemorate her name this edifice was called St. Mary Overrie. The establishment continued for upwards of a century, when it was destroyed by fire, about 1212. The priors and canons then had to seek for a temporary resting place where they might continue their devotions whilst their priory was being rebuilt. They therefore erected a small edifice exactly on the site of the old St. Thomas's Hospital at Southwark, near London Bridge. After their priory was reconstructed, the monks returned thither, and the small temporary building just referred to,—in reality the embryo St. Thomas's Hospital,—was left uninhabited. Soon after, this empty building was converted into a kind of almshouse or retreat for the poor and infirm, and the then Bishop of Winchester (Peter de Rupibus) recognising the boon that this retreat conferred on the sick poor, interested himself to convert it into something like a hospital. He himself was a liberal benefactor to the Institution, and gave it the name of the "Spital of St. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury."

The hospital was singularly well-placed to fulfil the charitable purposes for which it was intended, for (to use Golding's words), as the road to Canterbury lay through London, and the only passage over the Thames was in the neighbourhood of "St. Thomas's Spital," it was ordered by the Bishop of Winchester that poor pilgrims to and from Canterbury should be permitted to lodge and board in that house for the



night, and in the event of sickness or lameness, should be hospitably provided for till their recovery, when they were to be furnished with alms, and provisions to continue their journey. Moreover, the site appeared to be an excellent one, partly on account of the salubrity of the air, and partly for the goodness of the water which abounded in the spot on which it stood; for at this time, as you may suppose, it was surrounded by high trees, and on the side towards the Thames the ground was for some distance unoccupied.

Our hospital made little progress, so far as history informs us, for a number of years during which it lived, or rather existed, so to speak, "from hand to mouth." Thus in 1535 the annual revenue was only about £300; and three years after, when it was surrendered to Henry VIII as church property, the sum of about £250 was the utmost of its annual income. At this time its constitution included a master and brethren, and three lay sisters who resided in the hospital, and forty beds were made up for the poor, infirm, and impotent people, all of whom had victuals and firing allowed them.

I presume that in those days money went considerably farther than it does at the present time, but to say the least, so judicious an expenditure, with so small an income, indicates a fiscal economy that was highly creditable to the managers of the institution!

In 1551 the then Lord Mayor and Citizens of London purchased of Edward VI, in accordance with the wish of Henry VIII, the manor of Southwark, which included the site of the hospital. As the demands on the charity increased, the building was enlarged so as to render it capable of holding three hundred sick persons. It was intended by Henry VIII that St. Thomas's Hospital should receive the name of "the Holy Trinity," but in compliment to Edward it was termed "The King's Hospital," and was opened formally in November, 1552, for the reception of patients.

About a month before his death, Edward VI incorporated by charter the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London in succession as perpetual governors of the Royal Hospitals; and it was then that this charity received the name of St. Thomas the Apostle. The King at that time liberally endowed the hospital with estates from which at the present moment it derives a large portion of its income.

It is needless to occupy your time with more details, further than to say, that the building was in part reconstructed in 1835 and 1839, and that in 1862 the site of the hospital was sold to the Charing Cross Railway Company. The establishment was then temporarily removed to the Surrey Gardens, and after considerable discussion on the choice of an eligible site for the new hospital, the present one, at the Surrey end of Westminster Bridge, was ultimately selected.

This, then, is a hurried sketch of the history of the hospital, but in order to render the picture more complete, I will now endeavour to paint in, so to speak, the portraits of a few of those physicians and surgeons who have been, either directly or indirectly, associated with it—men who have proved themselves benefactors to science and mankind, and whose industry and perseverance we may all do well to emulate.

The distinguished anatomist and barber-surgeon, Cheselden, was a pupil, and afterwards was surgeon here, and it is stated came before the public as a man of mark at a very early period of life. He was born in 1688, and died in his 65th year. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 21, and lectured on Anatomy when he was 22 years of age. Anatomical lectures, you must understand, were not very common in England at this period. They were introduced into this country, I find, by a M. Bussiere, a French refugee, and a surgeon of high repute in the reign of Queen Anne.

Cheselden was on terms of intimate friendship with

Pope the poet, who described him as "the most noted and most deserving man in the whole profession of chirurgery." In 1743 he was chosen Sheriff for London and Middlesex, and, it is stated, swore off because he was not worth the required sum of money necessary to hold office. Notwithstanding his fame, and the wealth he must have acquired as a great operator, it is a somewhat singular circumstance, that at the age of 56 he was not worth £15,000; and it was on taking an oath to that effect, supported by six other barber-surgeons, that he was relieved from undertaking the duties as Sheriff.

You may probably have noticed that I referred to Cheselden as a barber-surgeon. It may, perhaps, interest you, if I mention that in the eleventh century the practice of medicine was entirely in the hands of the clergy. William the Conqueror, for example, was attended by a bishop and an abbot, and the surgeons to King Henry VI were barbers, and his physicians priests; indeed, the barbers were originally introduced to surgery by the priests, whose heads they had to shave, and sometimes they of course had to shave the heads of their patients. The barbers and surgeons were first incorporated as a united company by Edward IV, in 1461, and it would even seem that of the two professions, or perhaps trades, that of the barber was at this period considered the more respectable, at least, if we may judge (says Jesse) from their adopting, and petitioning to be distinguished by, the title of the "Mystery of Barbers." Cheselden was one of the wardens of this company. The barbers and surgeons continued in a quasi-partnership for three centuries, in fact until so recently, that the celebrated Abernethy, who died in 1831, says, "even he has doft his cap to barber-surgeons."

We have, I need not say, a relic of the barbers and surgeons as showing how "they twisted both their trades together," in the pole we see at the present day out-

side the hairdressers' shops, where they profess "Easy Shaving." It is decorated, as you know, in three colours,—red, white, and blue. The blue represents venous blood, the red the arterial, and the white is the symbol of the bandage used after the operation of venesection. There is some significance, too, in the pole itself, which indicates the stick that the patient grasped in order to accelerate the flow of blood from the superficial veins.

It was the custom, not many years ago, you may remember, for persons to be bled at the "spring" and "fall" of each year; and one of the surgeons to this hospital acquired considerable repute, during his lifetime, for this operation, and at his death the following epitaph was written to his memory:—

"Here lies in repose, after great deeds of blood,  
A hospital surgeon thorough;  
Who *bled* for his *own*, and his *country's* good,  
At St. Thomas's Hospital, Borough."

But in the reign of Henry VII the necessity for a superior class of surgeons arose, and there happened to be a few more ambitious aspirants to fame who confined themselves exclusively to the surgical part of the profession, scorning the more *barbarous* portion. These few were, in fact, about ten in number, whose portraits have been handed down to us by Holbein, the famous portrait painter, who represents them on their knees receiving the Charter of the Surgeons of London from King Henry VIII. The original picture is at Barber-Surgeons' Hall, in Monkwell Street, but you may see a copy on the staircase of the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1745 an Act was passed for making the Surgeons and Barbers of London two distinct and separate corporations. On the separation, the Barbers retained the old hall, books, paintings, and records,—indeed, everything except a small annuity left for six surgical lectures. The Surgeons were thus left homeless, and

without property. They even had to borrow money, and at length built a hall in the Old Bailey, on the site of the present Sessions House. Subsequently they removed to Lincoln's-inn-Fields, a building with which you will, sooner or later, become sufficiently familiar.

To continue; I need not add that Cheselden was a distinguished lithotomist, and, besides the interest that must ever attach to his name as connected with this hospital and school, I have another and special reason for directing attention to this great surgeon, and it is to show the marvellous influence of his teaching.

It is, I think, something for St. Thomas's Hospital to know and to be proud of, that the celebrated John Hunter, who has been described as the greatest physiologist the world has ever known, and whose labours have raised surgery from the servility of a mechanical art to a science of the highest order, was a pupil of our William Cheselden, and that from him Hunter received his first lessons in surgery, for he studied under Cheselden at Chelsea in the summer months of 1749 and 1750.

Having taken up the chain, let us follow it link by link, and see if the clinical work done at this hospital has been altogether fruitless and wasted. I think not. Hunter, as I have shown, was one of Cheselden's pupils, and ultimately became one of the surgeons at St. George's Hospital. There, he had a pupil and protégé who resided with him, one whose discovery has contributed so largely to the preservation of life, and to the alleviation of human suffering, Edward Jenner, the discoverer of that inestimable boon, vaccination. I need not here refer to the opposition which Jenner experienced, except to hold him up as an example of self-reliance, patient industry, and perseverance, and to show how incessantly he laboured to establish what he believed to be a pathological truth. You may form some idea of the difficulties he had to surmount when I say that he once sent in a paper on his pet subject

to the Royal Society—that paper was refused, and he was calmly reminded by the President “to be more cautious and prudent, and not risk his reputation by presenting to the Society anything that seemed so much at variance with established knowledge.” Jenner had passed nearly half a century before he made known to the world his experiments and investigations relating to the vaccine disease. His first successful vaccination was made in 1796, and he visited London in April, 1798, remaining until July 14th in the same year. His object in this visit (says his biographer) was to demonstrate the disease small-pox, with its antidote, to his professional friends, but such was the distrust or apathy felt on the occasion that he absolutely returned to the country without having been able to prevail on any one individual to submit to the inoculation of the virus. But, gentlemen, the virus Jenner brought to London was left in good hands. It was consigned to the care of Mr. Cline, senior, one of the surgeons to this hospital, who also was one of John Hunter’s pupils. Mr. Cline inserted some of it by two punctures into the hip of a boy labouring under disease of that joint. This mode of procedure was adopted with the view of exciting counter-irritation to the diseased part, and the intention was to convert the vesicles into an issue after the progress of the cow-pox had been observed. This idea, however, was abandoned. Small-pox matter was subsequently inserted into the child in three places; it produced a slight inflammation on the third day, which soon subsided, and thus the child was effectively screened against the disease.

Dr. Richard Mead was the favourite pupil of and successor to the celebrated Dr. Radcliffe. Mead was polite, polished, and refined, and a ripe and good scholar. He was appointed physician to this hospital in 1703, and was an intimate friend of Pope the poet, Halley the astronomer, and Sir Isaac Newton

the philosopher. It is said of him, that of all physicians who have ever flourished, he gained the most, spent the most, and enjoyed the highest favours.

Both Mead and Cheselden "won golden opinions of all sorts of people," but by none were their talents more fully appreciated than by Pope, who referred to them in the following complimentary terms:—

"Weak though I am in limb, and short of sight,  
Far from a lynx, and not a giant quite,  
I'd do what *Mead* and *Cheselden* advise,  
To save these limbs, and to preserve these eyes."

The busts of these two illustrious men are placed in the hall of this hospital, and there are medals—the Mead and Cheselden—which commemorate their name, and which are awarded annually to the most distinguished students here.

Sir Astley Cooper, another of the distinguished pupils and lecturers at this hospital, was first bound apprentice to his uncle, Mr. William Cooper, one of the surgeons to Guy's, with whom he remained three months only, being transferred, by his own desire, to Mr. Cline, senior, one of the surgeons here. Sir Astley was, I need scarcely say, a brilliant surgeon and anatomist. He was an indefatigable worker, his labours in the dissecting room and his attention at the hospital being incessant. He commenced to lecture here in 1791, and continued to do so for a period of twenty-five years. He seems to have been born a surgeon, for it is related of him that when quite a boy, he saw a youth thrown from a cart, by which accident a large artery in the thigh was opened. The blood gushed forth copiously, but young Cooper, with great presence of mind, instantly made his handkerchief into a tourniquet, and applied it so scientifically as to succeed effectually in arresting the hemorrhage. In 1820 Cooper attended George IV, and removed a tumour from His Majesty's head. Subsequently he received the honour of a baronetcy.

Dr. Mark Akenside was one of the physicians to this hospital. He had a select, although not a large practice, and was celebrated as a poet, a philosopher, and an elegant scholar, being the author of the "Pleasures of Imagination," and other poems. He was, however, somewhat brusque in manner, which often "severed him from human sympathies," yet his life was marked by a course of undeviating rectitude. When he commenced practice in London he was fortunate in having a friend (such as I hope many of you will have) who allowed him £300 a year to enable him to make way in the profession. As was the custom in those days, he wore a large white wig, and carried a long sword. His querulous spirit well nigh led him, on one occasion, to fight a duel, but the duel never came off for this very good reason, that Akenside determined not to fight in the morning, and his opponent declared he would not fight in the afternoon, and both objected to fight in the evening.

Speaking of Akenside, I am reminded that Keats the poet, although he never graduated, was intended for our profession, and was one of the students at this hospital.

And lastly, I may refer to the renowned physician, Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, who was a pupil here, having served an apprenticeship of five years. He studied under Akenside, and afterwards enjoyed a most extensive and lucrative practice. After the discovery of vaccination by Jenner, Lettsom was the first to send the vaccine lymph across the Atlantic, after which the practice of vaccination spread through the United States. His kindly disposition not only brought him patients, but friends, and his life teemed with acts of benevolence. He was chiefly instrumental in founding the Sea-Bathing Infirmary at Margate, and also the Royal Humane Society.

Notwithstanding his urbanity to his patients,



Lettsom was somewhat vigorous and energetic in his medical treatment, as we may gather from the lines that were written respecting him. (I should say in explanation, that he was a Quaker, and his name being John, he used to sign his name I. Lettsom.)

“When patients comes to I,  
I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;  
If after that they die,  
What's that to I? I. Lettsom.”

But, gentlemen, I might adduce examples to almost any extent, mentioning the honoured names of the Clines, Wardrop, Travers, Marshall Hall, Aston Key, Tyrrell, Green, Solly, and many others. Two of these may, however, be singled out for special mention on the present occasion, for I find (from a note by Mr. Whitfield) that after the battle of Waterloo many surgeons went from England to assist and take care of the sick and wounded, amongst whom were Mr. Fred. Tyrrell and Mr. Aston Key, surgeons to this hospital, and further back in our history, I notice that in 1745, Mr. Warner and Mr. Cowell, two of our surgeons, served as volunteers with the Duke of Cumberland. And, have we not still amongst us men imbued with the same spirit of military enthusiasm who, regardless of their own lives, are now tending with brotherly solicitude, and are watching with ceaseless care, the sick and wounded sufferers in the Turco-Servian war? Do we not read with interest and pride, and at the same time with thrilling anxiety, the daily reports of the heroic deeds of two of our staff, Mr. MacCormac and Mr. MacKellar? And, do not our hearts throb within us when we reflect on the chivalrous conduct of those younger volunteers who, true to the discipline of St. Thomas's, are distinguishing themselves as noble-hearted, high-souled, and unselfish Englishmen?

And now, I come to the last, and perhaps the most practical part of my address. We have seen the progress of our hospital, and I have directed attention

to a few examples of men who have "scorned delights, and have lived laborious days." What lesson then do we learn with regard to ourselves? How are we to sustain the reputation, and do honour to those illustrious men whose memory continues to blossom in the dust, and will live amongst us for evermore? In one word, gentlemen, by work. Work is the well-spring of life, and is the living principle that carries all men forward. And let me say, that the mind of the student should be at once impressed with the all-prevailing truth that there is no royal road either to learning or to success in our profession. Money may assist to a certain extent, but it is of little value so far as the progress of science is concerned, without the closest application, and persevering and sustained industry. A celebrated judge, on being asked what contributed most to success at the bar, replied, "Some succeed by great talent, some by high connections, some by a miracle, but the majority by commencing without a shilling." The same may be said of our profession. Most of the distinguished men to whom I have referred began life with an empty pocket, without influence, and without friends, but they worked for work's sake. Sympathy was first aroused in them, then followed the passion for scientific research, for be sure that without sympathy there can be no passion.

And is ours the only profession in which the necessity for work arises? We listen with rapt attention to the learned divine. We marvel at the brilliant oratory of the illustrious statesman. We gaze in wonderment on an historical picture, in which all the details, with appropriate costumes, are depicted by the artist with the utmost accuracy and precision. We admire the actor, who "holds as 'twere the mirror up to nature," and places before us the characters of England's mighty dramatist with vigour and truthfulness, representing the "very age and body of the time." Are these conquests won, are these triumphs

achieved, without work ? Certainly not, and every man is guilty of moral cowardice who is afraid to enter the contest of life.

Think of the amount of labour that John Hunter underwent. He was 10 years old when his father died. He was apprenticed to his uncle, who was a carpenter, and himself worked for some years as a cabinet maker. He received little or no education until he was 20 years of age, and even acquired the art of reading and writing with much difficulty. He states that he owed his success to the fact that if he thought a thing was practicable, he never stopped until that thing was done. What a volume of common sense there is in the remark he made to his pupil, Edward Jenner, who submitted his views respecting vaccination to him. "*Don't think only,*" said the great anatomist, "but *try*; be patient, be accurate." Again, take Michael Faraday, the distinguished English chemist, who was apprenticed in early life to a bookbinder, at which trade he worked until his 22nd year. Then Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation. He worked for eight years before he published the results of his investigations. He was regarded as an impostor, as Jenner was; yet, after twenty-five years, he lived to see the scientific truth he had enunciated completely verified.

It is no uncommon circumstance to hear a man spoken of as "a lucky man;" but worldly prosperity will generally be found to be the result of diligence and application. It is, perhaps, true that a man may be born with the proverbial silver spoon, but otherwise most of the so-called "lucky men" are men who bide their time; they know how to wait; they watch for opportunities, and mark them down with the eye of an eagle. Such success is not "luck," but clear-sighted discernment. Again, other men are spoken of as "men of genius;" but, after all, genius is mostly the result of painstaking and incessant study. John Hunter has been described as a man of genius; but, says Sir Charles

Bell, "the leading feature in Hunter's character was that he was eagerly devoted to his subject, and that it was not so much an original quality as an acquired habit of the mind, which may be cultivated by any one who devotes himself with determination to high attainment."

Depend upon it, gentlemen, the steady, self-reliant, hard-working man never fails to be appreciated in the long run. Self-reliance is the noblest quality that any man can aspire to, and you may be sure that, "whatever is done *for* men, in some degree takes away the stimulus and necessity of doing for themselves." It is the strength of the traveller, and not the guide, that conquers the difficulties in the journey through life.

Then there is nothing that conduces more to progress in the study of our profession than accuracy, and accuracy implies truthfulness, for the chief aim of all scientific pursuit is a sincere and humble desire for the truth. We should, therefore, above all things, cultivate the power of observation, and be careful not to despise the small things of life. We should observe in order to improve ourselves, that our opinions may be the more correct.

And as allied to accuracy and truthfulness, I might add the pre-eminent quality of good principle, sincerity and purity of motives in our dealings with our fellow-men. A man without principle is like a ship without a rudder. He is certain, sooner or later, to be wrecked, and in our profession may perhaps be wrecked on the most treacherous of rocks—the rock of quackery. No one will deny that it is our duty to acquire a competence in order to render ourselves independent of our neighbours, but we should take care never to have what has been so well described as "a dirty shilling in all our earnings."

Prompt decision, too, is all-important in our profession, and the student should therefore, from time to

time, examine himself to ascertain what he really knows, taking stock, as it were, of his knowledge. He should remember that, throughout life, we are all perpetually under examination, and that, unless we can bring our knowledge to bear at the proper moment, our knowledge is absolutely useless.

Then, as our calling is one essentially of charity, it is our duty to show charitable consideration and refinement towards our patients. Most especially should we exhibit these qualities to the sick and helpless poor who seek our aid and professional advice. In his enthusiasm for knowledge the student should remember that what may be instruction to him may be death to the patient. He should, therefore, on certain occasions, repress his ardour for acquiring information. As an illustration of the evil effects of such zeal and over activity, I may mention that the Roman physicians were in the habit of visiting their private patients attended by their pupils, and one poor victim expressed himself in the following very forcible and suggestive terms :—

“ I'm ill, I send for Symmachus, he's here,  
A hundred pupils following in the rear ;  
All feel my pulse, with hands as cold as snow,  
I had no fever then, *I have it now.*”

Lastly, I would especially urge on those gentlemen who are now commencing their studies to work assiduously and with a will during their first year. This, as is well known, is a favourite theme of mine, but, believe me, it is absolutely impossible for a student to fulfil the requirements of the examining bodies for the first or primary examination, unless he makes up his mind for two years' steady, solid work : 1st, by not only attending, but by paying attention at lectures ; 2nd, by not only being in the dissecting room, but dissecting with care and thoughtfulness ; and lastly, by reading in such a way as to “ take in ” all he reads. Let me add that he should procure the best and most

recently published books, and should regard a "cram" as a green-eyed monster.

I think I have now told you enough to encourage you to the belief that the study of medicine is one of the noblest and most interesting pursuits that can engage the attention of the human mind. Great wealth, and high honours, although open to all, are practically only given to a few, but it may be some consolation to you if I express my honest opinion that I am not aware of any profession in which a fair competence is so speedily acquired as in the vocation of medicine.

Let me say, in conclusion, with much earnestness to all who are now studying here, that whether your life be a success or a failure, I confidently hope you will never lose sight of the moral influence and discipline inculcated at this hospital. In life's campaign you will necessarily meet with many vicissitudes to impede your progress, and you will have to contend with and conquer numberless difficulties; yet when the fiery fight is o'er, and you bear away the emblem of your victory, you will, I feel sure, look back in your leisure moments with pride, reverence, and thankfulness to your Alma Mater, gratefully remembering the happy days you have spent here, and recognising with intense satisfaction the many lifelong friendships that you have had the opportunity of forming.

FINIS.

(9)