

**An introductory lecture delivered at the London Hospital Medical College
at the opening of the session 1864-65 / by J. Langdon H. Down.**

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

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DELIVERED AT

THE LONDON HOSPITAL

Medical College,

AT THE OPENING OF THE SESSION 1864—65.

BY

J. LANGDON H. DOWN, M.D., LOND.,

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LONDON :  
H. K. LEWIS, 15, GOWER STREET NORTH.

1864.

The following Address is published at the request of many  
persons who were present at its delivery.

J. L. H. D.

EARLSWOOD, REDHILL,  
*October, 1864.*



## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

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THE inauguration of another Session of the Medical College of this Hospital is a day of sufficient interest to call together other than those who, as pupils and teachers, are to work for a period within its walls. It brings some who are interested in the practical usefulness of the great charity to which we are attached, while others who are now engaged in the professional work of healing repair to the source whence they derived their early teachings of the art and science of their calling, to greet its professors, renew their own youthful aspirations, and cheer on those who this day publicly "plight their troth," and are launched on the mission of their lives.

We this day commence the seventieth session of the London Hospital College, and the tenth which has been held in the present building. Many of us can remember the old school with its scanty appliances, and can compare with pleasure the present commodious edifice which the Governors of the hospital have, with enlightened liberality, devoted to the teaching of medical truths,—enlightened liberality—because I hold that nothing can be so advantageous to a large general hospital as to have associated with it a medical school. Independently of the vast amount of gratuitous service which is obtained from dressers and resident officers who are pupils in the college, the presence of intelligent students of medicine and surgery in the wards and waiting-halls of the charity, is a constant influence for good, both for the patients who seek, and the reputation of the hospital which offers relief. The benefits are somewhat reciprocal. The hospital is a necessity to the school ; the school is no less an important aid to the efficient working of the hospital. Each member of the staff feels that he is surrounded and influenced by active and thoughtful minds,—



that all his doings must be such as will bear the most careful criticism,—and that he must be prepared to give an intelligent reply as to the reason of the treatment he prescribes and the principles he enforces. He has every inducement and every stimulus to compel him to keep in the vanguard of medical progress; to make himself acquainted with all that is new, and to sift therefrom and utilize all that is true; to banish all temptation to languid thought and lax reasoning; and to bring to bear, in the presence of observing witnesses, the best and surest aids in the combat of disease and death. The interests of science stand on the same platform with those of humanity. The influx of disease and accident in a great stream through the portals of the hospital can be made to minister most efficiently to the evolution of scientific truth, by the connection of the hospital with a school, offering as it does an incentive to the rigid observation of the history of disease and of the influence of remedies, and furnishing the means of making those records of facts from which laws may be generalized and indications of the most successful treatment obtained. The donor to the hospital, while conferring untold benefit on the suffering poor, and aiding the stricken artizan in the time of sore distress, is, it may be unconsciously, offering a gift which rebounds to the wealthy of the land in the shape of increased knowledge of disease, and the advanced medicine and surgery which comes to the aid of all who suffer from perils from which none of us are free. Certainly he is adding a stone to the Temple of Science, in which Truth is the object of devotion and her enthronement the chief desire.

On an occasion like the present, the mind naturally reverts to former similar scenes; and especially do I remember the first at which I was present, when, with nervous footsteps, I pushed into the crowded theatre to take a glance at those who were to be my teachers, and to hear the eloquent words that were teeming from the orator's lips. They had, I remember, the character of a funeral oration, for the year that had passed had been signalled by the march of death in the ranks of the staff, and among those who had been its victims, the name of Pereira stood out in



bold relief. Since that time no loss by death has been suffered. We have, for the most part, only had to lament the separation of members of the staff, either on account of the increasing claims of their profession, or their alliance to some special branch of practice in which they occupy distinguished places, or to seek that ease which they had earned after years of well-directed labour in the arena of professional life.

During the last ten years, the profession has witnessed the struggle for and attainment of medical reform. The Medical Act which has been obtained, although not meeting entirely the desires of the profession, will, it is hoped, gradually improve the status of the medical body. The educational tests, both general and professional, if carried out in good faith by the medical corporations, will inevitably tend to place the profession in a more reputable position. One cannot but notice, however, that among the licensing bodies there is too great a tendency to enter into an unhealthy competition—a competition as to who shall advertise the minimum amount of general and medical educational requirements—a ruinous race to perpetuate mediocrity. So long as examination fees are returned if candidates are unsuccessful, and the teachers of the pupils are those alone who confer degrees, there will be a danger that the licence or the diploma will have only the real value of the parchment on which it is gloriously inscribed. The reports of the debates of the Medical Council have shown us who are those who, for selfish purposes, are struggling to continue examination shams, and thus demoralize the body politic; and Dr. Parkes has furnished a picture, from real life, of the attainments of some who have been sent out by certain corporations as duly qualified by virtue of their worthless paper.

After all, the need of reform is in ourselves. No Act of Parliament can ever elevate us, if the bodies which should represent the profession, and are intrusted with special powers, are dishonest enough to issue certificates that are not truthful, or the members of the profession are greedy for high-sounding titles that have no inherent worth. It



must be a matter of congratulation that the Royal College of Physicians of London has taken on itself the examination of the general practitioner, and thus assumed its rightful place, and that the University of London has added Master in Surgery to the list of her brilliant degrees.

During the period under review, the profession has had to take a stand with reference to three branches of the public service in which it felt that it was not fairly treated. The assistant medical officers of the Navy were badly remunerated, and placed in a position which was derogatory to their status as members of a learned society, and one, in fact, which compromised the entire body in the eyes of their brother officers. The part that was taken by the profession, and especially by the students of London, has led to more honourable arrangements. The medical treatment of the poor is still a matter which calls for counsel as sagacious as the entire question is difficult. There is at last, however, indication of a move in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that, in time, a satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

The Army Medical service, whether of India or that of Her Majesty, is one that appears to get more unsound as time advances. Warrants are framed only to be discarded. Promises are made which are not regarded in good faith. The result of this policy has already been made known in the House of Commons. It was proposed that the Indian service should be supplied, not by a measure of justice or of commercial policy, but by granting the Secretary for India permission to admit incapable men at discretion, and thus to temporise with an admitted evil. Fortunately, however, the proposal was too palpably absurd for the House of Commons to adopt, and furnished an opportunity for the London daily press to enlighten the nation on the impolicy of unjust treatment of the officers of an important branch of the public service.

The British Army at this moment lacks efficient medical officers. It does so, not on account of any disloyalty on the part of the profession, not on account of fear of the perils and hardships which military life necessitates, or of inconveniences which are essential and cannot be remedied,



but because it feels that under present circumstances, by alliance with the service, its honour is tarnished. One cannot shut one's eyes to the fact that the present policy is one that is highly prejudicial to the well-being of our regiments. Having regard to the requirements of the service, to the diseases of climate and the casualties of war, it is desirable that he on whom must fall the responsibility of the health and life of the British soldier, should be an intelligent gentleman and a well-educated practitioner. I feel sure, however, that under the present arrangements the accomplished medical student will dismiss from his consideration a department in which he is not allowed to take rank with the combatant officers, a service in which the glory of killing eclipses entirely the honour of healing. The jealousy of the officers will assuredly recoil with fearful result on themselves, if, pursuing a policy which keeps from them the best men in the profession, they are compelled to fill the vacancies with the worst men of the worst schools, whose examination papers would convulse one with laughter did they not shock one with shame for the corporations who had admitted their authors within their ranks.

One does not wish to depreciate the heroism of our military men; it requires, however, no less moral courage to pursue medical and surgical duties on the battle field, where the mind is not stimulated by the glory of the pursuit and the blandishments of actual conflict, but where the judgment has to be kept calm and the reasoning powers clear under circumstances of personal peril. The exploits of the "Alabama" interested and elicited admiration from many who had no sympathy with the Confederate cause. Bravery and skill commanded respect from thousands, but the crowning point in her strange history was the heroism of the medical officer of the ship—duty to his patients was the watchword in life and the devoted precept in death. On that calm Sabbath morning, when the waters of Heligoland swallowed up all that was material of the Confederate ship, a young medical officer read to the world a lesson of heroic duty. The waters of the ocean roll as aforesaid over that devoted spot, but long after all the combatant officers of the



ship are forgotten, the name of Llewellyn will be associated with the scene of the conflict and the story of the struggle. Such are the men our British Army wants, such, however, are not the men that will tolerate official insincerity or compromise their self-respect.

The past year has been an important one in the history of this hospital. The claims on the charity have become increasingly urgent, and the crowded state of the receiving rooms and waiting halls have testified to the eagerness of the public to partake of the benefits which the hospital so largely supplies. The claims have in fact grown beyond the possibilities of the building. Over-crowded wards and restricted space are incompatible with speedy convalescence, or the rapid transaction of current business. It was only necessary, however, to make known the wants of the institution to insure a subscription list which, so far as I am aware, is unparalleled in the history of medical charity. When it is remembered that but four years since the loss of a large source of revenue necessitated an appeal to the charitable, which received a munificent response, the influx of so many thousand pounds at a *déjeuner* is a phenomenon that numbers unacquainted with the hospital can scarcely understand. It is to be explained, however, by the claims—the never ceasing demands of a population exposed to the direst casualties, and who have no resource in the time of accident or illness but the noble charity which opens with so much beneficence its gates—of a population who are contributors, to a vast extent, to the material wealth of the metropolis, and are doing its hardest work at risk of life and limb. It is to be explained by the popularity of the hospital and the deserved repute in which my colleagues are held. It is to be explained, I believe, in no small degree, by the perfection of its civil management, of which I know but few equals, certainly no superior. There is nothing which so commends itself to the city of London and its men of commerce as an institution free from the taints of sectarianism or jobbery, and characterized by a business-like tone in its arrangements. These are traits for which the London Hospital is justly celebrated, and which so long as it pos-



esses will enable it to appeal with a success to which it is so peculiarly entitled.

As professors of the college we have reason to congratulate one another on the increased facilities for teaching which the extension of the hospital will afford, and the advantages that will follow to the school.

Many of those I have the honour of addressing this day are not strangers to the benches of this theatre. Some portion of your studies within these walls has passed. You have for a time been unbending the bow and are come back to renew its tension. Relaxation is a desirable alternation to arduous work. The heath, the moor, and woodland have, it is hoped, had intensified charms after a city life. Nature is to be worshipped elsewhere than in crowded streets and in the highways of business; and none the less, but the more successful, will be your pursuit of knowledge in the present session for the rest of brain and work of muscle which devotion at her shrine induces. Come then with earnest hearts to the renewal of the struggle; if in past times you have allowed precious opportunities to pass unregarded, let the future be the compensation of the past. If zealous has been hitherto your work, and increased intensity not possible, your season of rest has been a joyous one, because it was nobly earned. You have realized the vantage ground of effort, let not your past success be marred.

But I am addressing others, who are commencing their academical career, and who are this day entering on a course which is to influence their future lives. You who are here for the first time, and who are strangers to one another, and possibly to the professors of this college, are to work together for a season, in order to fit you for a profession to which you have determined to devote yourselves. Have you thoroughly considered the requirements it demands and the sacrifices it claims? Have you, by a process of introspection, well satisfied yourselves that you come here with holy purpose and high resolve to be true to yourselves and to your race in the exercise of a vocation, to which, if you do not bring a loving heart and a vigorous mind, it were better that you came not at all? I presume, however, that without the pretence of a



“special call” to the work, you are prepared, after grave consideration to enter on its preparatory studies with all the truthfulness of youthful enthusiasm and all the earnestness of unsophisticated hearts.

You are embracing a profession which does not hold out the prospect of unlimited wealth or of political renown. The coronet is not a prize nor the marshal's baton a possibility for you. The mitre is not the termination of your career. Yet I congratulate you on the decision to which you have arrived. You may readily by common industry insure a competency without the risks of mercantile life and the anxiety which commercial speculations entail. Your capital will be the knowledge you will have gained here and which no bankruptcy can ever take away. Your every-day pursuits will have far more interest than the rise and fall of markets, while your acquirements may render you fit companions for the wealthy of the land.

Your arena will be the chamber of sickness, and your eloquence will be called upon to stay the torrent of human sorrow, and it may be to mingle in the cadences of human joy. On your tongue will hang the hopes of many of your fellow-creatures, and its utterances will have the power of awakening pleasure or of drowning in despair.

Your clients will rarely present a case in which you can have suspicion whether your own honour will be sacrificed in advancing to the rescue, and you will never have the compunction that your mental powers have been prostituted to make the worse appear the better reason, or to sacrifice the innocent for the glory of success. Your judgments will be taken on points of weightier interest than the flaw of title, or the ejection of tenants, they will be on the tenure of health and even of existence.

Your battle fields will be mighty and varied ones. The ravages of disease will be the objects of your combat, and your victories will ne'er be tinged by regret. The enemy must be prepared for at every point and in every variety of attack. Sometimes without a warning a desperate inroad will be made and the population overwhelmed, at others stealthily and as from unseen hands the shafts will be hurled



and the envenomed darts sent forth. You will have to witness the onslaught of the enemy among infant ranks, when the promise of their future is the joy and rejoicing of their progenitors, or among the trained bands of adolescence when the world's duty is devolving on them and the claims of life are weighty, or it may be that the family guards are threatened and with their discomfiture will be wide-spread desolation. You will need all the sagacity which intrepid exploits require, all the fortitude that daring deeds demand. You will have to stand in the breach unruffled when all around is turmoil, to keep serene your judgment amid scenes of agonizing pain and the wanderings of alienated mind.

You are embracing a faith which is catholic, a creed which is wide as humanity. We ask you to a work in which you need have no fear that you will be "cribbed, cabined or confined," to musty formularies or worn-out dogmas. The writings of the fathers will have that influence on you which their inherent worth commands, and a natural veneration inspires, but we ask not that they should bind you down to an unthinking acquiescence, or to a slavish superstitious adherence. Their well-established truths should be points of departure into regions of the uncertain and the unknown; remember that you are older than they are, and have a longer pedigree. Progress and truth-seeking should be the articles of your belief and the stimuli of your lives. Your discoveries will be hailed with delight, and every addition you can make to the pyramid of science will tend to give you an immortality of renown. Let but the acquisition of truth be your single object and you need have no dread of Court of Arches nor of decisions of the Queen in Council. Orthodoxy and heterodoxy will be cabalistic terms which you will have no cause to fear. Your homilies will have to be addressed to the consciences and hearts of men of every variety and shade of creed and perhaps with no creed at all. Your work will be in the spirit of Him who went about doing good, and of his heavenly Father, who "sendeth rain upon the just as well as upon the unjust." The opportunity will oftentimes present itself of pointing a moral and of enforcing a religious truth, of showing the rightness of virtue and the folly of



vice, of teaching in a spirit not self-righteous, the "beauty of holiness," and the deformity of sin.

Your counsel will be sought in the intricate difficulties of private life. Revelations will be made to you of the frailties as well as the nobleness of humanity. You will oftentimes become the depository of secrets, sacred as the whisperings of the confessional. It will be yours to minister to a mind diseased, and dispel the mists from that bright mirror which ought to reflect the image of Divinity.

Such being your mission—What, during your students period have you to do? How are you to do it?

I will presume that you have entered this college with the preliminary training essential as a ground-work for a successful medical education. That you have had the advantage of the general culture which is now rightly required by all the examining boards. Nothing is more certain than the wisdom of the decision which requires an educational test. Without preliminary training much of the technical language of the lecture-room is difficult to understand, whereas a knowledge of classics makes the language of science easy. Moreover, the habit of study and thought, the practice of the memory will be important aids in your work here. The education most desirable, is not that which our public schools affect to teach, and so miserably fail at, but the intermixture with classics of some of the modern languages and mathematics, together with those physical sciences, the progress of which is tending to make conspicuous the age in which we live. I am of opinion that no youth destined for the medical profession should leave scholastic work until he has matriculated at the University of London. It requires, as I hope many of you are aware, a knowledge of classics, mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry, English and French or German. It is an examination which is accepted by all the examining boards, and includes just the proper basis for a medical superstructure, and is moreover a reality and not a sham, as I am afraid some of the preliminary examinations are. We are all interested that those examinations should be genuine. I believe that the profession has suffered much from the laxity which



has been practised by some of our examining bodies. How can a profession be respected when some of its members, armed with a surgical diploma have had to be taught decimals by a corporal in the army before they were fitted for its active service. But, in very shame, decimals were last year added. Even now the holder of the diploma may be ignorant of how to estimate the cubical contents of a ward, or of a barrack, or utterly oblivious of the most elementary facts of natural philosophy or of chemistry.

However, your preliminary examination (of whatever nature) is, in all probability, over. You have, now, to engraft on your general knowledge, that special knowledge which is to fit you for the practice of medicine in its largest sense. Your studies here will be those which comprise the principles, and those which include the practice of your calling. Anatomy will hold an important place in your regard. It is one of those subjects which cannot be learned from books, that can only be thoroughly mastered by your work in the dissecting-room. Any neglect in your acquisition of anatomy here, can never be repaired. The opportunity ceases when the scalpel and the forceps are laid aside. A subject, second only in importance to anatomy, is that of chemistry. No gentleman can lay claim to be an accomplished medical practitioner, who is not thoroughly grounded in chemistry—chemistry not simply of books, but of the spirit-lamp and the test-tube. It ramifies in every department of medicine. It is an important handmaid to the study of healthy action, and gives valuable assistance to clinical medicine by the light it throws on diseased action. The growth of physiological and pathological chemistry is, in fact, one of the significant signs of the advance of scientific medicine. Chemistry investigates also into the conditions of food and the presence of poisons, and is the basis, therefore, of inquiries into public hygiene and medical jurisprudence. It regulates the preparation of medicaments, and, in the shape of pharmacy, ministers to our wants in furnishing many of the most approved appliances of our art. Without a knowledge of chemistry, the physiology of the present day is hopelessly inexplicable, and the advanced



science and practice of medicine a dead letter. I cannot too strongly urge on your giving much of your time to the mastery of the principles of this most fascinating science.

A knowledge of physiology, or the laws by which our bodies perform their functions in health, is of essential importance to the right appreciation of disease. Aided by the microscope, we are led into the arcana of animal life, and the minute structure of tissues and organs is revealed to us. The comprehension of animal physiology will be much facilitated by your study of vegetable physiology and of comparative anatomy. They permit you to witness the processes of life in the simplest forms of organization, and to trace the differentiation of tissue and the specialization of function till you reach man, the object of your inquiry. The study of systematic zoology and systematic botany, will cultivate the faculty of observation, which is so essential to a successful practitioner of your art, and will make you acquainted with the true position in the animal or vegetable kingdom of the vast assemblage of products which are used either as food or medicine, and will, moreover, place you in a position for understanding those questions of biological discussion which are ever forcing themselves on the attention of the cultivated beyond our profession, and your ignorance of which will assuredly tend to your disadvantage. Natural history and chemistry will have prepared the way for a ready acquaintance with the agents we employ in the treatment of disease. You will be but a sorry practitioner if medical agents and their action on the human organism, in other words, *materia medica* and therapeutics, do not secure some share of your attention.

The more thoroughly you have made yourselves acquainted with the subjects I have enumerated, the more successful will be your efforts in acquiring, the main object of your coming here, the practical knowledge of your profession—the attainment of what should be your great end, to become successful and cultivated practitioners in medicine and surgery.

Do not, however, be daunted in your acquisition of principles and the basis of true knowledge, by the cuckoo



cry of the preference for being "practical men." Practice, unless founded on a knowledge of principles, is mere empiricism. To be practical, should be the culminating point of your desire, but view with suspicion those who are ever throwing doubt on the man of culture, and are pluming themselves as being "practical men." You will in the majority of cases find that they are either too idle or too limited in their powers to grasp general principles, and will, in all probability, soon dwindle down to being the merest routiners—ignoble workers in a noble calling.

On the basis I have defined, spare no pains to raise a fitting superstructure. Your anatomy will prove highly valuable,—aye, absolutely necessary,—in your pursuit of surgery, and for which this hospital presents a field unrivalled. The late report of the medical officer of the Privy Council proclaims that "the London Hospital is the greatest surgical institution in the metropolis," and the statistics indicate that the number of <sup>acc</sup>residents received therein is equal to those received in three of the largest hospitals in London.

Anatomy will also come to your aid in the study of morbid structures and pathology, a knowledge of which is so essential to a successful practice of medicine. While therapeutics and hygiene will have paved the way for your becoming accomplished as physicians, chemistry, united with pathology, will have helped you to a system of forensic medicine, which requires a knowledge of midwifery for its completion.

The diseases of women and children will assuredly secure much consideration from gentlemen who will be likely to have numerous clients from classes who so peculiarly require medical attention and care.

Your time will for the first few sessions be divided, for the most <sup>part</sup>, between the dissecting-room and the lecture theatre, while your evenings must be devoted to reading your notes of lectures and the text-books which have been recommended to you. I am aware that there is a tendency in the present day to depreciate the value of lectures, and to assume that reading is the best process for obtaining infor-



mation. Of course there may be peculiarities of mental constitution that cannot derive much advantage from lectures. I speak, however, from my own experience and from observation of others, and I feel convinced that any tendency in the present day to neglect oral teaching is to be deplored. I am daily conscious of numerous things of importance which occur to me, which were received from the living mouth, and which would never have been so remembered had they been merely read. I am also convinced that those of my fellow-students, who left the school with the greatest amount of culture, and who pursued their studies in the hospital wards with the greatest success, were those who were the most constant in their attendance in the theatres of this college. The gentlemen who despised lectures were usually those who, here or elsewhere, would never reflect credit on the school or the profession to which they belong, and were those who were accustomed to resort in the end to a professional grinder at the time when they ought to have been working vigorously in the hospital wards. Books are of great value, but they cannot supersede the digested truths and careful demonstrations of a well-appointed lecture. The lecture will be a guide to you; you will learn therefrom what should demand most attention in your general reading. Moreover, the lecture-room is a pleasant change to the earnest student. He employs for the time another organ of special sense for the imbibition of knowledge, and returns to his reading with more vigour for the change. Listen, for example, for an hour to the Professor of Chemistry in this college, and then compare the amount of information you will have permanently gained with the result of an hour's reading of the best text-book from the press, and you will realize the truth of what I say. My advice is, read vigorously, but also attend the dissecting-room, demonstrations, and lecture-room no less assiduously. Where the professors examine as well as lecture, lose never the opportunity of being questioned. The systematic lectures, moreover, tend to prevent that desultory pursuit of knowledge which simple reading engenders.

It is very important that you should in commencing your



studies have a well-defined aim, and take care that the aim is high. I remember the advice given me on leaving the village of my birth by a grey-headed man of the world: "My lad," said he, "when you take your aim, be sure you aim high enough. That's the thing," said he, "aim high enough." Well, in determining your aim I should also advise you to aim high enough. There are numerous examining bodies,—far too numerous in my opinion,—many of them to their disgrace have been trying for years to solve the problem, "With how little of this world's knowledge may a medical man be set up?" Now, in determining from which of these bodies you will seek a qualification, my earnest advice is,—Aim high enough. I should fail in my duty to you, to my own alma mater, and to this college, which had the honour of being among the earliest affiliated to the University of London, if I did not tell you, that the degrees of that university,—the university under whose wing this college, with the other London colleges, has placed itself,—have the undisputed reputation of occupying the highest position among the qualifications of the United Kingdom. Aim for her degrees; if you secure them, you will have obtained titles that will never cause you to shudder lest their source should be discovered; degrees, the value of which cannot be gainsaid, and if you fail, so high will have been your aim that the failure will be no disgrace. They are the degrees obtained by no less than forty-four of those who hold appointments in the great general hospitals of the metropolis, and which, on account of their veritable character, commend themselves to the profession and the public in a way to make them most desirable objects of your ambition. Succeeding in these, any other qualification you may deem it desirable to obtain may be taken by you as mere by-play. Do not be ever asking yourselves whether the College requires this, or the Hall requires the other, and as is too frequently the case, ignore what they do not insist upon. Say rather, what will the welfare of my future patients require, and what knowledge should I possess in order to be an accomplished medical practitioner.

Important as are your reading and lectures, they must



be subsidiary to your work in the hospital. To little purpose will have been all your study in this college unless it is surmounted by diligent observation of disease and the effects of treatment. The out-patient departments will afford you vast fields for diagnostic culture. The receiving-room will supply abundant opportunity for acquiring manipulative skill and ready tact in grave emergencies; while the wards will demand a devotedness which will secure a rich return, and for which nothing can be substituted. But ever remember that in your acquisition of knowledge you should cultivate a regard for the feelings of the patients. The honour and character of the hospital will, to some extent, be in your keeping. Your walkings will be among the sickened and the sad. Tread with gentle step and sobered mien wards consecrated by suffering and tenanted by humanity. You are passing many who are racked with pain and it may be hastening to the confines of the unknown, who but yesterday, proud in their strength of manhood, were the props of their households and the joy of their homes.

In your investigations of disease and accident lose never the remembrance that you are dealing with sensitive spirits as well as injured bodies. Yon man, with brawny hands and swarthy brow, who lies with fractured limb, is feeling, it may be, for the first time in life, the abjectness of dependence and the possibility of pauperism. Let nought, by word or deed, intensify the poignancy of his position. In your care of fractured limb regard the broken spirit.

Hark! That agonizing cry is from some poor woman whose child, with cindered garments and charred integuments, is brought to you for aid. She would willingly sacrifice herself, so intense is her love for her little one. She has to leave with you the most precious thing in her narrow world. Wound not her bleeding heart by flippant speech or rough rebuke. She hath need of words of solace to calm her saddened state.

That woman who comes in clothes of rusty black, and wears the weeds of widowhood, could tell a tale of early happiness and affluence. She had once all that could make



life blithesome. Now, more eloquent than words are her attenuated form and sunken eyes. She seeks the hospital to prolong her hapless life. Speak to her kindly, for her soul is still as sensitive as when in halcyon days tears were mingled with her bridal joys.

Remember that nearly all the patients who line the wards have left their homes and cast themselves among strangers, that they need some expression of sympathy to compensate for the sacrifices they are called upon to make, and that their convalescence will often be promoted by the genial manner and kindly bearing of those who attend to their needs. Your education as medical men is to be valued, inasmuch as it cultivates not one aspect only, but the entire man. It will, therefore, be sadly incomplete if, while storing your minds with knowledge, it fails in educing sympathy with suffering and tenderness to the troubled.

You will probably feel overwhelmed by the catalogue of subjects which I have thus rapidly presented to your notice. I cannot, however, lessen your alarm by any reduction in the number, or any affectation of the unimportance of one of them. They demand that you shall have entered this theatre with a determination for the next three or four years, to give to the subjects that are taught in this college and hospital your entire thought. If you have come here with healthy bodies, active minds and devoted hearts, you have no reason to fear but that you can accomplish what others have done before you. If you lack either of these requisites you ought to question yourselves whether your selection of a profession has been a wise one. I hope that you have come here with some nobler purpose than the mere adoption of a gentlemanly calling, that you have a higher motive than that it has been the profession of your father and grandfather, and that you wish to inherit a practice which, by virtue of their well-founded name, will ensure *your* success without *their* industry and skill.

I would have you know that there is no royal road to medical knowledge. I know only the steep but well-trodden one of earnest and persistent work. Everything will be done at this college to facilitate your journey. Guides will



be furnished you at every pass, guides who have made successful transits themselves, and who, while having lent their aid to others have not lost sympathy with new adventurers whose aims are high but whose courage falters. Under their guidance difficulties apparently insurmountable will vanish. The path that seems to be lost in obscurity will re-appear, and lead you to the wished-for point. The crevasse which appears too difficult to leap will, by their experienced tact, be crossed in safety, and the community of others with kindred aims to yourselves will be a help in the mountain journey. The ascent, which would have been hopeless to a desultory wanderer, will be quite a pleasant and long-remembered tour, in consequence of the facilities which organization and multiplied guides secure. Moreover, emulation will lead you to renewed energy. You will see others climbing slopes that seemed impracticable, you will resolutely determine not to be left behind. With a powerful will those and far more difficult ones will be scaled by you.

Your guides will have strong sympathies with you in your efforts. They were enthusiastic novices themselves once, they know all the difficulties and dangers, and they still retain lively interest in your successes as they will have sympathy with you in your failures. Nothing will so commend you to their regard as manifest earnestness, and nothing will so command success as a well-determined purpose. Set out this day with a definite object and the loftiest possible purpose, and a determination to practice self-denial in the attempt, and you shall be astonished at your own success. The morning may be cloudy, thick mists surround your path, you start with elastic step and blithesome spirits, seeing nought before you, trusting only to your guides. You traverse the outskirts of the village, and leave behind the last landmark with which you are familiar; that old crag you had almost reached in some of your more desultory wanderings. Onwards and upwards you toil, no defined view greets the eye, you are conscious of exertion, but nothing more. You rest at regular halts, refresh yourselves with mountain fruit, and pluck some favourite flowers. Onwards and upwards, still in mist; you are conscious that



you must have made some advance for the umbrageous trees no longer o'erhang the path. Presently the clouds disperse, and, as if by the machinery of a transformation scene, the whole geographical region opens to your view. You trace the meanderings of the road, you see the hamlet of the valley, far down, a tiny speck, and can appreciate the lonely view your tardy footsteps have attained.

Your journey, henceforth, shall be more joyous, for you shall see the route by which the summit shall be reached. The path, moreover, shall lead to beauties with which you were never before familiar—Nature exhibited in a variety of wondrous aspects—now astonishing you by the height and massiveness of her primeval rocks, and anon luring you by the exquisite minuteness of her glacial flowers. Amid all your arduous work you shall have time to cultivate the æsthetical side of your nature, and to worship and reverence the bountiful Creator of all things. Your guides, from past experience, are conscious of dangers of which they would in all earnestness warn you. They remember many of whom it might be said “Ye did run well, what hath hindered you?” Some started briskly but got languid on the journey; they had never practised themselves to effort of any kind before; they strayed behind—were lost. They might have succeeded well in valley labour, and in more humble pursuits have made themselves useful in their day, but they undertook an expedition for which they were not suited and perished in the attempt. They remember others who started with every promise of a brilliant ascent, who had all the possibilities of a successful career, who were swift of foot and expert of limb, but who wandered out of the beaten track and searched for gems and flowers in deep gorges and sequestered nooks, anon they would rest and take their fill of pleasure, trusting to their instinct to reach their fellow travellers by some short cut. But the lost ground was not to be so readily made up, and they were to be seen seeking for refuge in some miserable chalet half up the mountain, while their less gifted friends attained the hospice on the summit.

They remember others who had come from loving friends



with all the hopes of widowed mother, and the blessings of sympathizing sisterhood, for whom relatives had scraped together all that they could spare, and had even debarred themselves to supply the wallet and provide the necessities of the route, but who wandered away from their guides, chasing some gay butterfly o'er ice slopes that made one shudder at the venture. The homestead heard the daily prayer for a successful journey to its loved one. The guides used all their influence to enforce the danger of the pursuit, they told of dreadful catastrophes that had happened and would surely happen again. They remember how their expostulations were disregarded—the merry laugh at the slow—the preference for perilous paths and treacherous transits, for the glory of the prismatic colours and cerulean blue of the fissured ice. They were in their own estimation too sure of foot for danger; but, alas! the slippery surface, true to itself, led to their downfall, and the echoing chasm told to the wayfarers of the life that had been lost.

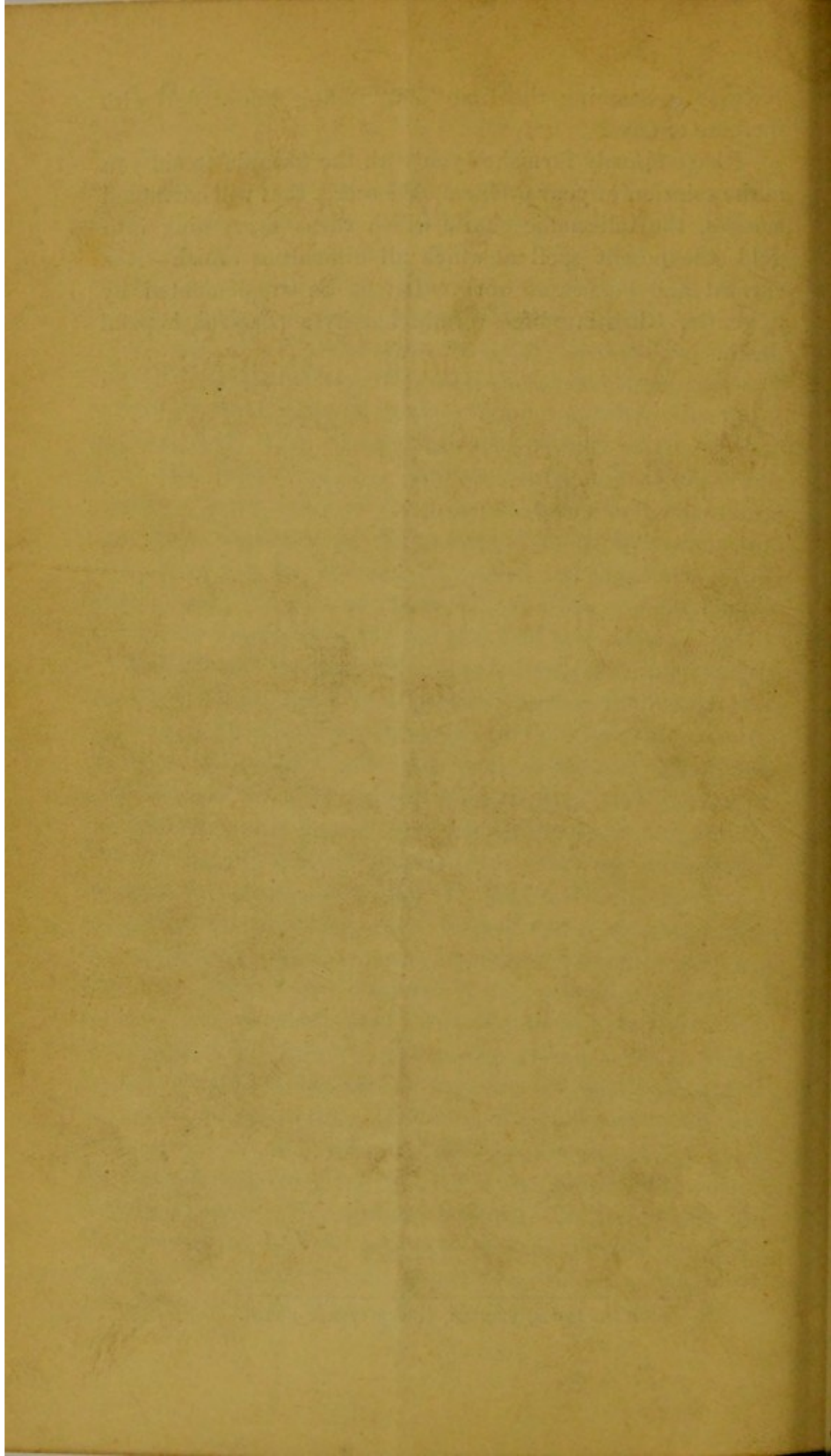
The guides remember, however, other than doleful tales and miserable failures. They preserve fresh in their memories the names of some of the companions of their own first ascent; of others who before and since have scaled the difficulties, and are now far away from leading strings, making explorations where no human foot has been; ascending higher and yet higher, with no assistance of chart, for their toil is in order to provide one; who are daily collecting facts and recording observations; who are permeating mankind with their thinkings; who are carving their names in enduring characters, and are spending and being spent for the glory of God and the good of man. Let these animate you. Let the student's life which you commence to-day, be a fitting prelude to your work beyond the stage of pupilage, and to the higher life hereafter. Let it be characterised by all that is earnest, true, and noble. Let it be honest, despising all seeming in lieu of reality. Let it be gentle, blossoming with kindly acts and genial sympathies. Let it be generous, crediting to the full the goodness of your fellows, and hesitating to sully their fair fame. Let it be brave, meeting trials with fortitude, and sharing the burthens of others. Let it



be wise, redeeming the time, and adding knowledge with increase of days.

I have already furnished you with the formula to aid you in the solution of your problem, the secret that will command success, the talismanic charm which turns everything into gold, the potent spell at which all difficulties vanish—it is earnest and persistent work. Let it be supplemented by a gentle, Christian life—terminated by a peaceful, hopeful death.







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