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AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED

TO THE STUDENTS OF GUY'S

ON THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE WINTER SESSION

1847—48.

BY

JOHN C. W. LEVER, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN LONDON,
PHYSICIAN ACCOUCHEUR AND PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM WATTS,
CROWN COURT, TEMPLE BAR.

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1847.



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AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS OF GUY'S

ON OCTOBER 1, 1847.

IF, Gentlemen, in addition to the stirring and trying events which have occurred around me, I had needed any thing to impress me with the verity of the aphorism of the Father of Physic, who, whilst alluding to the magnitude of the art of medicine, has with it contrasted the brevity of human life, it were afforded by the thoughts that have crowded upon me during the few hours I have devoted to the preparation of this address. For, but a few years since, and I was a listener on those benches, and looked forward, not without satisfaction, to the commencement of the Medical Session: now the *Student* has been transformed into the Practitioner; the *Pupil* has been developed into the Professor; and although, in the accomplishment of this, a considerable portion of the average period of human existence has been consumed, yet, on reflection, it seems but a span.

And, Gentlemen, at the commencement of this Address I will at once confess to you, that I have accepted the honourable position in which I now stand, not without fear and hesitation;—with fear, lest the pæans of congratulation should fail in their utterance from the feebleness of the instrument through whom they are to be emitted; with hesitation, when I remembered that in this School there were those, who, from their high character, deserved professional reputation, and great experience, were far more worthy to occupy the post of honour which has been assigned to me; at the same time, I felt that it did not become me to shrink from duties which a certain standing has imposed upon me; and therefore, implicitly relying on your indulgent forbearance, I am encouraged to proceed. And here let me declare, that, for my present position in the profession,

and for my present position in this School, I am mainly indebted to the bright example, to the excellent counsel, and the continued support of many around me, now my Colleagues, formerly my Teachers, and who, I rejoice to tell you, are to be yours.

To what shall I direct your attention? Shall it be to the nobility of the profession you have embraced? a profession distinguished by the generosity, the liberality, the self-denying conduct of its members;—a profession which has been, and is still, renowned by those who have shed a lustre on society at large; by men who, by their talents, their devotion, their discoveries at once brilliant and beneficial, have acquired for themselves and their co-members a lasting and honourable fame? The time allowed might be readily spent in tracing these worthies, who, “alike to fortune and to fame unknown,” from comparative obscurity, by their genius, by their industry, by their indomitable zeal, by their integrity, have come steadily forth from the ranks of the profession, and have by right acquired that position in the eyes of their brethren and society which, while it has ennobled them, has at the same time exalted the faculty to which they belong.

It would be a gratifying and cheering task thus to bring these men before you, and briefly trace their character and history; from it we should learn a valuable lesson, fraught with courage and constancy, that neither lowliness of birth, nor absence of fortune, nor delay of opportunity, is sufficient to crush or subdue the progressive and expanding force of talent and industry; but from this, gratifying though it would be, I forbear.

I might detail to you a brief history of medicine, and tracing the earliest records, crowded with fable and supported by conjecture, I should place before you the writings of the Greeks, foremost of whom stands the “Prince of Medicine,” “The Father of Physic,” “The Oracle of Cos,” “The Divine Old Man”—HIPPOCRATES. I could prove to you that the Greeks were the instructors of the Romans, and that Celsus, in a certain degree, may be considered as the transcriber of Hippocrates. I could engage your sympathy while I painted before you the destruction of the city of Alexandria, the resort of learned men, with its extensive, valuable, and justly-renowned

library, by a ruthless Saracen fanatic, and could shew you how a wise and over-ruling Providence so ordered this dire calamity, as to make it the means of disseminating knowledge over many parts of the known world, by scattering the learned men rendered homeless by the destruction of their magnificent city. I could shew how medicine was improved by the discovery of printing, and bring you down to the establishment of the London College of Physicians, a body which has at all times numbered amongst its sons the most learned, the most enlightened, yea, and I believe, the most liberal-hearted and Christian members of the medical profession ; but, Gentlemen, interesting as it would be thus to trace the history of our profession, it is a subject with which each of you can make himself acquainted in his study, and therefore from enlarging upon it I forbear.

I might expatiate upon the character of the age, and the discoveries of modern times, and could prove to you that medicine is not stationary ; that her sons are imbued with the " onward " spirit of the day. Look at the other professions ! Churches are erected : Chapels are opened : and Schools established for the moral and spiritual instruction of the people. The members of the legal profession are vying with each other in their endeavours to suit the laws to the improved habits and increasing education of the community. Men of science, by hundreds, are exerting themselves, each to improve that particular profession or art with which he is connected. Human ingenuity has almost annihilated space. Mankind, by railways and other means of rapid communication, are brought into more close and frequent intercourse with each other. In these times the prophecy " that many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," is on the eve of fulfilment. Electricity has been made an astounding and wonderful agent in the hands of man ; by its instrumentality the murderer is arrested, the physician despatched, the patient prescribed for, the message is sent, and not only sent, but printed. And you have only to look into our hebdomadal and quarterly Journals ; to attend the meetings of our various Societies and read their transactions ; to peruse the writings of medical men of the present day ; to study the researches of the *Physiological Anatomist*, who, by careful observation and mechanical analysis of the phenomena of life

and organized matter, is acquainting us with the forms which nature gives to matter, while producing beings, while developing them, and while retaining them in health; and to marvel over the researches of the *Organic Chemist*, who, by his analytical and synthetical processes, reveals to us the laws which regulate the production of those various forms with which the *Anatomist* has made us acquainted; and you will agree with me that our profession is also moving "onward," slowly it may be, but not the less securely.

Let us, however, not be vain-glorious! While we rejoice we have fallen upon these improving times, let us remember that if we see further than our fathers before us, we stand upon that superstructure which they have contributed to erect.

I might occupy your time, by advising you as to the course of study you should adopt during the three or four years you are compelled to spend at the Hospital; but in this you may be guided by the regulations of the Corporate Bodies, and each Professor in his special department will give you such information as will be necessary and useful.

Before me is an audience composed of persons varying in age, and differing in rank, but all, I conceive, more or less devoted to medicine. There are those who, for the first time perhaps, have entered the walls of a Public Hospital, for the first time have been connected with a Medical School: to *you* chiefly are my observations to be directed. You have been brought here by some anxious parent or guardian, who is desirous not only to see the scene of your future labours, but to ascertain, if he can, who are to be your instructors. *Young men*, I congratulate you! you have selected a noble profession; I envy you those feelings which now animate your bosom; I can read in your countenance a determination to succeed; the very sight of *you* recalls to my mind the first lecture I heard in this Theatre, the thoughts that lecture excited, and the determination created, when I had no more prospect of occupying this distinguished position than the youngest or most unknown among you.

There are others who for a time have been separated from us, who have been into the country to take that relaxation to which they were entitled for their previous exertions, and who have now returned, I trust with health restored, and energies

increased, again to resume their studies. Gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues, I re-welcome *you*.

There are some who have terminated, or are about to terminate their studies, and who are looking forward to enter upon the duties of practice, to make use of that information which they have acquired at this Hospital, and to feel themselves surrounded by duties, responsibilities, and anxieties, of which they have heard, but as yet have not experienced. In the name of my colleagues I wish *you* God speed.

And I think I see some, yea, not a few, who have spared a few hours from the toils of practice to revisit their Alma Mater, to re-live for a brief time their student's life, to be gladdened by the sight of old associates, and to see the recruits that are about to join the corps, and who will take their place when they shall have vanished from the scene of their former labours. Gentlemen, I speak for my colleagues, when, for your cheering, animating presence, I heartily thank *you*.

The subject I would offer for your consideration—one interesting alike to *Student* and *Practitioner*, to *Pupil* and *Professor*, is “PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY;” and before pointing out to you how you may prepare yourselves for the faithful discharge of the duties of your high trust, let me briefly place before you the nature of your important mission. Few of you, perhaps, have devoted any consideration to the character of the responsibility you have undertaken in entering the Medical Profession; and when I speak of responsibility, I do not mean to exclude that species of it, which the legal power of the country has a right to exact from those who fill a public trust. But, high as this is, there is a responsibility attaching to you, from which the whole legitimate power of this kingdom cannot absolve you,—a responsibility to conscience and to glory,—a responsibility to the existing world, and to that posterity which you cannot avoid for glory or for shame,—a responsibility to a tribunal at which kings and parliaments, statesmen and professional men, and even nations themselves, must one day answer. Various may have been the motives which have caused you to connect yourselves with the art of healing; but whatever those motives are, or may have been, the responsibility of your position will be the same. It is not merely, that by the practice of your profession you may obtain such a worldly competency

as will ensure to you, and those dependent upon you, such comforts as usually fall to the lot of those occupying the same position in society as yourselves: this, while it is one of your duties, and is evoked by a feeling of self-preservation very proper in its place, should not be your sole motive; for, while the proper and legitimate practice of your profession will afford you the comforts, if not the luxuries of the world, it will gain for you the respect of your fellow-men, the approval of your own consciences, and enable you to leave a memory that shall be fragrant when your work in this world is at an end.

The responsibility of the medical man, in whatever division of the profession he may labour, or whether engaged in public or private practice, is the same. Is he attached to the army? His situation is one of extreme importance. While yet young the safety of thousands may be committed to him, in situations the most perilous, in climates the most unhealthy, and in dangers the most imminent. Alone and unassisted, he must act where decision and perfect knowledge are required, in wounds the most formidable, more diversified than can be conceived, and to which all parts of the human body are exposed. His duties, difficult under the most favouring circumstances, are sometimes to be performed amidst the hurry, crash, cries, and horrors of battle. To him, in the moments of distress, will his comrades look for succour and encouragement. Or, has he committed to his care the crew of one of Albion's floating batteries? his duties are not less responsible; they will consist not only in attending to and curing the sick, and in healing the wounded, but in preventing the outbreaks of those ravaging pestilences which, in times gone by, have converted the finest specimens of naval architecture into floating charnel-houses. But, does he prefer the duties of private life to the excitement and changes of public service? his responsibility will still be as great. He has to watch over the health, the happiness, the corporeal and mental powers of his fellow-creatures, and these, perhaps, connected with him by the ties of relationship, or the bonds of friendship. To him will be confided the care of a father laid prostrate by disease, and upon whose recovery the prospects of both wife and children depend; husbands will turn to him and beseech him to save their beloved partners in the time of impending danger; goaded by mental agony, parents will implore, yea, will com-

mand him to put out his skill, and rescue their loved ones in the season of approaching death. He will at times be called upon to witness trials that will lacerate his heart; scenes that will cause his sympathy to gush forth. Perchance, he may be summoned to attend the head of a family, where the members of that family have their hearts wrung with intense anxiety, for he is oscillating between life and death; and as the medical man, with noiseless step, steals into the chamber, and notes the symptoms and state of the sufferer, "his very look will be watched, his very words caught with breathless earnestness, and these words will wing themselves to the souls of the hearers, either for sorrow or for joy." Believe me, I am not over-colouring the picture, for scenes like these have oftentimes been witnessed by many around me.

Seeing then, the nature—the serious character of your responsibility; feeling, that according as your talents, in proportion as your medical education is extended or neglected, you may be messengers of mercy, dispensers of health, in the abodes of sickness, or be like unto the destroying angel, and be tracked by death and desolation, I feel anxious to point out to you the best means of acquiring that information, and attaining that knowledge, which, in seasons of emergency and overwhelming danger, will enable you to lend a speedy and effectual assistance, to be immediately and eminently useful: and, if your best endeavours prove unsuccessful, you will be consoled by the consciousness of having done your duty.

All of you, I presume, have received a sound preliminary education, have attained a certain amount of classical and mathematical knowledge: the former you will do well still to cultivate, while the latter is essential to enable you to reason strictly and correctly on those phenomena which disease, under its various phases, will continually present to your view. The various branches of Natural Philosophy may have received some attention at your hands; but these should be closely studied, to enable you to understand the mechanism of this mighty machine; to comprehend how the functions of life are carried on; to interpret the various symptoms of disease; and to apply your remedies for the relief of both internal and external ailments. It is true that a man may reduce a dislocation or set a fracture, in perfect ignorance of the laws that

govern the application of mechanical power ; yet such a man is but a licensed " Bone-setter," not a scientific Surgeon. In the construction of the human body there is much to admire—much to contemplate. For the purpose of resisting violence, and supporting weights, there are arches and columns ; levers of various kinds are found, which not only increase power but multiply velocity ; in fine, every part of the human frame is replete with interest to the Student in Natural Philosophy. If ignorant of the science of Optics, you will not understand the beautiful construction of the human eye, formed with such evidence of design, and with such perfect adaptation, as alone to furnish indisputable proof of the Omniscience of its Creator. A knowledge of Hydraulics will enable you to acknowledge the aptitude of that machinery by which the vital fluid is sent through the various parts of the body, distributed through one set of tubes, termed arteries, and collected by another set of tubes, termed veins. The ear also, you will find, when you study it, consists of three parts : one, the external or outer ear, is adapted to the collection of sound, the middle portion is for the transmission of sound, while by the internal ear sound is appreciated. Now, you must know something of the science of Acoustics before you can apprehend the mode in which the several parts are connected, so as to fit them for the transmission of those vibrations upon which the phenomena of sound depend ; " for that which is conveyed into the brain by the ear," says Locke, " is called sound, though, till it affect the perceptive part, it be nothing but motion." Without a due knowledge of the science of Acoustics, you will fail to comprehend the sounds of normal respiration, and therefore be unable to appreciate those simple and compound sounds which are but evidences of disease, and, transmitted to the ear through the stethoscope, placed in our hands by the immortal Laennec, enable us in most cases to fix the boundaries, interpret the character, and prognosticate the termination of disease, as distinctly and as accurately as if the chest and its contents were opened to our view. In order that you may keep up your knowledge of Natural Philosophy, or acquire this if not previously studied, Lectures on the subject will be delivered during the current Session.

The methods of instruction pursued at this School are *pre-*

ceptorial and *practical*. Preceptorial instruction, or teaching by lecture, has by Dr. Johnson, been pronounced as adapted only to such subjects as admit of actual demonstration; but experience has convinced those who are well fitted to judge, that this means of education has its advantages, for by its facts are generalized and raised into principles, the theory of the art or science can be expounded, and, as it may comprehend and systematize, so may it be more advantageous to the Student than an extended course of reading, and which, indeed, would be impracticable in the time spent at the schools.

Some of the branches of Medical Science, as Anatomy and Chemistry, may be termed fundamental, whilst others, although indispensable, are subsidiary. Anatomy holds pre-eminently the first place. The object of our science is, to prevent, cure, or mitigate disease; and as that disease (if present) must exist in some one or more of the structures of the human frame, how shall we, or how dare we, apply our remedies without a knowledge of the structure of that part in which the disease exists? Without a knowledge of Anatomy, Surgeons cannot operate, neither can Physicians detect the seat of disease. Fail not, then, to acquire a knowledge of Human Anatomy, not merely by regular attendance in this theatre, but by close application in the dissecting-room. "How vast and diversified a field of knowledge," says Professor Owen, "opens out before us as we gaze from the portal of Anatomy. Our study is that of the highest and last-created product which has been introduced into this planet. Every part we study has its like in our bodies, it may be vibrating, pulsating, contracting. And if we extend our study from Human to Comparative Anatomy, we shall find there is a close general resemblance between the structures of lower animals and that of man, and that almost every part of the human frame has its homologue in some inferior animal, and that man's organization is a special modification of a more general type." As structure and function are closely allied, they must either be studied together, or closely follow each other, the study of function immediately succeeding the study of structure. What can be more interesting than the study of Physiology, by which we investigate the various functions of the human frame, be they organic, relative, or reproductive, but which cannot be thoroughly comprehended with-

out instituting a comparison between the organism framed for the performance of the functions in man with the simpler apparatus destined to the same office in the inferior animals? So that he who would make himself a complete Physiologist must not only be master of Human Anatomy, but be conversant with the structure and organs of the lower animals.

Chemistry, that science which teaches us the elementary constituents of bodies, and leads us to a close acquaintance with every object in nature, is of immense importance to the medical man. Without it, he may order medicines that are incompatible, neutralize their properties, or produce some noxious agent, which, if it do not destroy the patient directly, may indirectly be the cause of his death, by wasting those precious moments when the hand of science might have rescued him from impending danger. Ignorant of Chemistry, he may fail to detect the poison which the hand of the dastardly assassin has prepared for his victim. Without a knowledge of Chemistry, he cannot comprehend the nature of many of the animal functions, or detect the character of the morbid products generated by disease.

To *Botany* your attention will also be directed: in its study you will find much to interest, much to captivate you. You will be able to prove that the vital principle necessary for the performance of the functions in man is no less essential for carrying on the functions of the meanest plant; and however insignificant the herb, yet there is that structure bestowed upon it which adapts it to that situation where its Maker has placed it: yes, simple as may be the structure of the plant, there is evidence of design, abundant proof of the "Great First Cause."

The science of *Materia Medica* takes cognizance of medicinal agents of every kind. As a department of Natural History it is replete with interest; and as a branch of medical education it is indisputably necessary. With the history, the properties, and the qualities of medicinal agents, you should be intimately acquainted before you venture to apply or dispense them in the treatment of disease. The *Materia Medica* draws its resources from every kingdom of Nature: it refuses not to avail itself of medicinal agents extracted from animals: it descends into the bowels of the earth, and draws largely from the mineral treasures: the ocean and its inhabitants are submitted to its selec-

tion : Chemistry has contributed most liberally to its subsidies : while Botany, producing before it its stores in profusion, has enabled it to extract both the bane and the antidote. The wise man hath said, "The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor them."

Having investigated these departments of Medical Science, you will be prepared to enter upon the practice of *Physic* and *Surgery*, *Midwifery* and *Pathology*. Too much attention cannot be paid to the practice of medicine which embraces the most numerous and the most fatal of human maladies. The Lectures on this branch of study will be of eminent service to you, for by their means you will be conducted into the right method of investigation ; you will be taught the real nature of the disease ; its exciting causes will be so pointed out, that their knowledge may lead to the prevention ; you will be told what Nature can do towards effecting the cure, and what remedial agents you should yourselves apply : thus important facts as well as general principles will be brought before you.

Surgery, too, by some viewed merely as the art of curing disease by manual operation, is here studied both as a science and an art. Its principles are derived from physiology ; its practice based on anatomy. In the performance of surgical operations you will require, as Celsus has said, "a steady hand, a good eye, and an intrepid mind:" but these are not all : you must have a thorough knowledge of anatomy, for in every surgical operation such is imperative. The performance of mutilating operations is not the best proof of the surgeon's skill, for he who prevents the necessity of an operation by judicious treatment is more to be admired than he who performs the most brilliant operation. At the same time, so numerous are the chances of accident, so uncontrollable the effects of disease, that you may be suddenly called upon to operate when the least delay or hesitation on your part might lose the life of the patient. Surgeons must be always at their post : "semper parati, semper adstantes."

To the science of *Midwifery*, comprising the knowledge and art of treating a woman and her child during pregnancy, parturition, and the puerperal state, your attention will have to be directed ; and let me advise you not to be inoculated with the spirit of those who point with the finger of scorn at the practi-

tioners of Midwifery. It is true, obstetricry has been depreciated, because it happens that, in its practice, ignorance and presumption run the least risk of being detected and exposed. But I maintain, Gentlemen, that this department of the profession, trying as it is to the heart, wearying to the mind, and fatiguing to the body, involves the most intricate points of anatomy and physiology, the nicest and boldest operations of surgery, as well as the most perplexing and difficult cases in the practice of medicine. It comprehends in its grasp the whole uterine system and the changes it undergoes, the phenomena of impregnation and conception, the development of the embryo, and the system of the fœtus, the diseases of pregnancy, the difficulties of labour, as well as the operations necessary to assist it, the occult and ambiguous maladies incident to the puerperal state, the theory and phenomena of menstruation, as well as the critical diseases to which infants are noxious. For the successful practice of midwifery you must be good anatomists, skilful, dexterous, and able surgeons; and you must be able to detect, discriminate, and treat disease of every kind that "flesh is heir to." Your position as obstetricians will be a responsible one, for you will be placed as guardians at the very portals of society, and exercise a decided influence, not merely on the numerical condition, but also on the well-being of the human race.

Having attended these preparatory Lectures, you will be ready to enter upon the extensive field of *Pathology*, or science of disease. Pathology necessarily includes *Morbid Anatomy*, or the science of diseased structure, and *Morbid Physiology*, or the science of diseased function. The extended cultivation of *Morbid Anatomy*, and the close microscopic examination of disease, is one of the characteristic features of modern times. It is this which has greatly improved, and is still benefitting, the science of Pathology; but we must never forget that *Morbid Anatomy* is not Pathology, although an essential part of it: your knowledge of the former may be perfect, while your acquirements in the latter may be most meagre. To be a Pathologist, disease must be studied in the living more than in the dead. To quote the words of Sir Benjamin Brodie, "The mere *Morbid Anatomist* may suppose that, in the inflammation of the œsophagus and trachæa, he has discovered the essence and real

seat of hydrophobia; but a more extensive observation will teach you, that whether it exist in a greater or a less degree there will be the same fatal termination of the patient's sufferings." Your opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of Morbid Anatomy at this Hospital are most ample; many bodies are annually inspected, and as their cases may be seen by you you will have the opportunity of contrasting the symptoms during life with the appearances revealed by the scalpel. The adjoining Museum is rich beyond measure in morbid specimens, containing, in addition to its 620 magnificent pathological models, 1708 pathological drawings and diagrams, and no less than 4755 specimens of disease affecting every system, organ, and tissue of the human body.

And here permit me for one moment to pause, and pay a tribute of sympathy to our late excellent curator, Mr. T. Wilkinson King, who, in spite of severe and protracted ailments, pursued the study of his profession with an ardour rarely equalled, and never surpassed. The papers he has written, although expressed in a style somewhat peculiar, evince deep thought and close investigation. His researches into the structure and functions of the safety valve of the heart alone will cause his name to be handed down to posterity with honour and respect. "He has rested from his labours," but these his works do and will remain. Without incurring the charge of exaggeration, I may apply to my lamented friend words which have been chiselled on a tablet erected to the memory of another deceased ornament of our profession:—

—————" Vitæ integer
 Evangelicè pius et liberalis
 Peritus, expers, fidelis
 Qui non senectuti, sed morbo cessit."

Lastly, your attention must be directed to *Forensic*, or *State Medicine*, a science which has more to do with the social than with the individual state of man—a science in which we all are interested alike, whether physician, surgeon, or obstetrician. It is hardly necessary for me to impress upon you how great is the responsibility of a medical witness, whether the case be one of poisoning, infanticide, or any of those nicer subjects which Medical Jurisprudence embraces. You have the advantage of having for your instructor in this intricate branch of the profes-

sion the first medical jurist of the day; and therefore I trust you will negative that statement which lawyers have so freely and frequently circulated, that medical men never appear to less advantage than when giving their evidence in a Court of Law.

Such are the sciences that will be taught you by preceptorial instruction; and while it is no part of my duty to make comparisons that might seem invidious, between Guy's and other Medical Schools, yet I am bold to declare, and not only to declare, but, if needs be, ready to prove, that at no other institution are there greater advantages or more extensive facilities for acquiring information on the several subjects, neither is there to be found a band of Professors more zealous, or more desirous to do their duty, than the Gentlemen around me, to whom the responsibility of instructing you has been, or is to be entrusted.

But, Gentlemen, your education is to be *practical*: while you acquire a certain amount of knowledge from lectures or from books, you must test that knowledge by a diligent attendance at the bedside. And, at the commencement, fail not to educate your senses, learn how to see, how to feel, how to hear the evidences of disease, placed in such abundance around you. If you wish to obtain a ready faculty of diagnosis, you must become acutely observant. Baglivi truly says, "*Ars est in observationibus.*" You cannot spend too much time in the wards; and while you will do well to make your own notes, frame your own opinions, and fix in your minds the plan of treatment to be pursued,—while you thus interrogate disease for yourselves, do not forget that the sick poor are admitted to be cured, not teased, or unnecessarily examined, and have their maladies, with their probable termination, made the subject of conversation or discussion within their hearing. The study of disease by practical observation at the bedside is too much neglected. Students will attend their lectures with punctuality; their leisure hours they devote to close reading; they will rush into the theatre to witness the performance of a capital operation; but at the time when they should be learning disease by a diligent attendance in the wards, they too often are preparing themselves, either in class or otherwise, for those examinations which they are prone to consider the main end of a student's life. To act thus is to lose sight of your professional responsibility. If you are to be of benefit to your fellow-creatures, you must closely attend and

diligently observe the practice of the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital. The Pupils of this School have greatly benefited by the Clinical Report Society; but I am informed that there is to be a modification or re-modelling of this Society, or rather an amalgamation of it with the general education of the Students; and I can but speak in terms of the highest approbation of a Society, which, from comparative insignificance, assumed a position which not only gained the approbation of the officers of this School, but the admiration of those connected with similar establishments. Believe me, Gentlemen, reading alone, or reading and lecture combined, will never make you useful, will never teach you how to practice your profession with advantage. I have known some men who could repeat the symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, causes, treatment, &c. of every disease registered in our Nosologies, without falter or hesitation; and yet these men, taken into the wards, were unable to recognise or distinguish the most common ailment. These living cyclopædias of medicine and surgery fail when they become involved in the responsibilities of practice; they become bewildered, unable to recognise the nature of cases; they flounder from one mistake to another; they betray their indecision and ignorance to the scrutinizing observation of the anxious and watchful patient and friends; and lose their character at a time when a false step is *professional perdition*. When I have witnessed the mistakes of these purely bookmen, I have been reminded of an anecdote related by Dr. Corrigan, of a certain distinguished member of the Dublin University, who prized book learning on all subjects beyond demonstration. "He possessed a most accurate knowledge of Natural History, but from books alone: he knew nothing of the objects of Natural History from actual observation. In a hard winter a poor little sparrow sought shelter in his college rooms; he seized it, and was determined not to lose the opportunity of shewing his colleagues how readily he could reduce his book knowledge to practical application; he ran over in his mind classes, genera, orders, and species, and then triumphantly pointed out how rapidly he had arrived at a determination of the species before him. 'And pray what is it?' said a fellow professor. 'What is it?' replied the indignant Vice-Provost, 'as if I did not know: it is a little crow to be sure.'" This was an error which the college scout

could have corrected. Bichat, when asked a short time before his death how it was that he had learned so much, replied "It is because I have read so little. Books are but copies. Why have recourse to copies when the originals are before you? *My books are the living and the dead: I study these.*" In this Hospital you have the originals before you, and in profusion. Will you study the dead? Between 200 and 300 necroscopic examinations take place annually, and the evidences of disease are registered for your study. Will you study the living? Nearly 4000 patients are annually admitted into the Hospital, and upwards of 60,000 men, women, and children, are treated as out-patients. Neglect not, then, *this your present opportunity*: if you allow it to pass by, you can never regain it. Many a man in after life has bitterly lamented his neglect of clinical instruction during his pupilage.

If, Gentlemen, there be one thing more than another that has exalted the reputation of this School, it is the value of the practical instruction given to its pupils; but it would seem as if in these days some of our pupils (unlike their predecessors) suppose they can obtain from reading information as ample, as practical, and as useful, as they can acquire by visiting the sick with the Physicians or Surgeons. Why do I say this? On two separate occasions, during the last Clinical Session, I wished to confer with Dr. Addison, and I found him in Lydia's Ward with five pupils! The old pupils of the Hospital will scarcely credit the fact. That this talented physician, who has been engaged in Clinical instruction for nearly thirty years, and whom I may style, without incurring the charge of flattery, the *Coryphæus* of Clinical teachers, should be attended in his daily visit by so few, will I say, astonish your predecessors, who acknowledge and have proved the value of his instruction. Such things *ought* not to be; such I trust *will* not be this Session. Read if you please, and read in a certain degree you must; but be assured that no reading will give you that information which is sometimes conveyed by the expression of an eye, the tinge of the skin, or the touch of the pulse; characters which can never be described, but which, when once seen or felt, may readily be recognised. No written description, however graphic, however accurate, or however diffuse, can give to the mind a sufficiently clear idea of the object described.

Remember, that if this School have been valued for its practical advantages, such have been determined by the practical acquirements of those who have passed through it; and if you wish to maintain the high character of Guy's pupils, you must be practical also. Since the establishment of Guy's as a separate School, 3400 pupils have here been educated. What a great amplification of the philanthropic motives of the founder has been the graft of the School upon an establishment instituted for the cure of the sick and necessitous poor! Ofttimes as I have passed through this Hospital in the silent hours of the night, and when the stillness has been but occasionally interrupted by the cries of the suffering or the groans of the dying, I have wondered whether the original founder of this noble institution were permitted to take cognizance of sublunary matters; and I have thought, that if so permitted, and if a being in a state of beatitude can derive gratification from witnessing human affairs, how rejoiced must he be, that by the addition of this School, science has been extended, education increased, and the blessings of this Hospital abundantly diffused through the world by the sending forth annually of so many pupils, missionaries of mercy, heralds of health, and assuagers of sickness and disease.

Your field for exertion is boundless, the avenues to distinction are free, and it is within your power to command an entrance to them. I am thoroughly convinced, that if any one of you will determine to be eminent in the profession he has chosen, and with unwearying steadiness will pursue that determination, he will succeed. You may not have what is termed genius; you do not want it. Men of genius have contributed but little to the advancement of our profession; meteorlike, for a time they have dazzled the world by the brilliance of the theories they have propounded, but their brief existence has but rendered the darkness still more visible. Each of you has mental faculties, which, by constant care, vigilance, and exercise, may be so improved, that they will supply the place of genius, and afford you brighter prospects of success than it can anticipate or attain. In the language of Reynolds, "You must not place too much dependence on your own genius. If you have talents, industry will improve them; if but moderate abilities, industry will supply their deficiency. Nothing is denied to well-

directed labour ; nothing is obtained without it." Depend upon it, your success as practitioners will be just in proportion to your labours as students ; for, while it is the duty of every one to improve those faculties with which he is endowed, it is especially the duty of the medical man, whose responsibilities are so serious.

While I thus urge upon you the necessity of unceasing industry in the acquirement of medical knowledge, I know that you must occasionally relax the mind, for it does need amusement ; but, in selecting your amusements, choose those that will bear reflection ; for if the gratification in which you are about to indulge will not bear the test of reflection and approval in after life, it is to be shunned. For your companions, select the industrious, the hardworking, the approved Students of the Hospital ; and, I am proud to tell you, such is the general character of the Gentlemen with whom you will be associated. Avoid the society of the dissipated and the idle, who will lead you, not merely from the pursuit of knowledge, but into those haunts of vice where your morals will be poisoned, your health ruined, and perchance, your life sacrificed. I have seen noble-hearted, high-spirited, and talented young men, who, at the commencement of their career, promised most fairly ; but, seduced by the worthless and the ruined, and led away by their evil counsel, have not stopped in their career of iniquity until their property was squandered and their health irretrievably lost. Young men, if tempted by such, think of your responsibility—your responsibility to your Maker, your responsibility to your profession, your responsibility to those parents who have sent you here : strain not too much a father's affection, for that may snap ; presume not too long on a mother's love, for although that be inextinguishable, yet its very intensity may consume the being that cherishes it. Beware of the first false step ; and when invited to join such society, and to mix in such sports as your conscience will not approve, think of that happy home you have just left ; picture to yourselves the father who gave you his blessing on your departure, and the mother who, with many tears, committed you to the care of a watchful Providence. Oh ! will you blast the hopes of such parents ? will you, by any misconduct, render the home of your childhood a scene of unhappiness ? *You will not—you*

shall not, if a diligent example, if faithful, sincere, and reiterated counsel will warn, will affect you.

While I thus invite you to habits of industry, let me beseech you not to deprive yourselves of that repose which is necessary for the restoration of the corporeal and mental powers. Allow one who has suffered from such intemperance to advise you to retire to rest early, and to rise early from your bed; for one hour devoted to study at early morn is more than equal to two pilfered from that time when body and mind should be at rest. Fail not to give yourselves the seventh day repose, which your bodies require. Remember that the Sabbath was made for man. In the language of the excellent and venerable Dr. Farre, "the use of the Sabbath is that of a day of rest, and, as a day of rest, it is a day of compensation for the inadequate restorative power of the body under continual labour and excitement." Mr. Bianconi (no incompetent authority), at a meeting of the British Association, stated that he had found, after several years experience, that a horse would travel eight miles a-day, for six days in each week, for a much longer time than he would travel six miles every day in the week; that is, that forty-eight miles a-week, with rest on Sunday, would impose less fatigue than forty-two miles a-week, without any day of rest. The repose of the Sabbath not only refreshes and restores our physical powers, but the soothing influence of its holy duties spreads a refreshing dew over our exhausted mental faculties, by which they are rendered more clear and vigorous for the duties of the coming week.

In this spirit pursue the study of your profession during the period you are compelled to spend at the Hospital, and when you present yourselves for the diploma or licence to practice, your success will be certain.

Unfortunately, as at present constituted, the examining bodies of our profession make no distinction as to the acquirements of the persons who appear before them. They ascertain not the *maximum* of qualification, but the *minimum*; they decide on the bare competency that will secure the public from mischievous ignorance; they have to prove that he who is the candidate for the diploma is fit to be permitted to practice; but they do not prove that he is as fit as possible, or as fit as he might be.

But the licence to practice will never *acquire* practice. On your entry into this stage of your life, your real trials will commence. Now will begin your first ordeal. Encourage the same habits of industry recommended to you as students. You will still have much to learn, and, at the commencement of your practice, you will have much leisure time; and while you give the greater part to the profession, devote some portion to the general cultivation of your mind, to those studies which will fit you for the society of the educated; for you will find that your place in society will, to a great extent, depend upon yourselves.

“Hæc studia, adolescentiam alunt; senectutem oblectant; secundas res ornant; adversis perfugium ac solatium præbent; delectant domi; non impediunt foris; pernoctant nobiscum; peregrinantur, rusticantur.”

Always be at your post. If you want encouragement, read Twiss's “Life of Lord Eldon,” and you will there find, that by constant study and unremitting application, he was enabled when suddenly called upon, to shew to the Court and the world that his knowledge and abilities were of such a character as eventually raised him to the highest position in his profession, and proved him to be one of the most sterling and righteous lawyers that ever filled the seat of judgment.

Force not yourselves into notoriety: a character thus obtained is short-lived, and those who at first patronized you will leave you for another whose trumpet sounds more loudly. Never attempt to improve your worldly estate by empiricism. If you possess, or suppose you possess, a remedy for any ailment, grave or trivial, it is your duty to communicate such remedy to your professional brethren. Imitate the conduct of that truly distinguished ornament of our profession, Jenner, who “stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stayed.” With respect to him we might say, with Lord Bacon, “he enjoyed heaven upon earth: his mind moved in charity, rested on Providence, and turned upon the poles of truth.”

Have nothing to do with the abominations of the day, the Nothopathies or the Pseudopathies, of the age, begotten by designing men, nurtured by speculators and peculators, and patronised by hypochondriacs and idiots. Keep yourselves free from such: their adherents feel no responsibilities, they seek for

nothing but their own aggrandizement, and they will be remembered but with shame and disgust. Who are the objects of their attack? Do they search out the poor and the indigent? Are they intent upon the mitigation of disease, however lowly may be the condition of the sufferer? No; they utter their false promises and display their counterfeit attractions before those, who suffering from disease, imaginary or real, have it in their power to return for the supposed benefit, that which is the sole aim of these impostors—*money*. The legitimate members of the profession recognise and treat disease wherever it is found; whether it affect the wasted frame of the pauper, or the pampered body of the prince; whether it be seen in the pagan, or be found in the Christian; in short, wherever we find the image of Divinity stamped, and that image be diseased, or in danger of dissolution, we recognise our responsibility, and apply such remedies as we possess.

Lastly, never attempt to build up your reputation by destroying or injuring that of another; for a character raised upon such an unstable foundation will not endure.

In conclusion, by every motive that can influence reflecting and responsible beings—by the memory of those distinguished men who have shed an imperishable lustre on these walls—by regard for your own success and happiness in this life—by the fear of future discredit—by the hope of enduring fame—by all these considerations, do I conjure you, while you have the opportunity, while your minds are flexible, to form them on the models which approach the nearest to perfection. By motives still more *urgent*—by higher and holier associations—by the duty of obedience to the will of God—by the account you will have to render, not merely of your moral actions, but of faculties entrusted to you for improvement—by these, I conjure you to apply yourselves to obtain that wisdom, which, directing your ambition to the noble end of benefiting mankind, may support you in the “time of your tribulation,” may comfort you in the “time of your wealth,” and “in the hour of death and at the day of judgment” give you the hope of deliverance. Yes, Sirs, a time will come, when, with respect to each of you, all the arts and resources of medicine shall fail—when the throbbings of your pulse shall have become too fine and feeble for the touch of science to detect—when your heart shall hesitate, and be

about to cease to force its blood through its many channels—when the films of approaching dissolution shall collect over your darkening eyes—*then*, in addition to those consolations which true religion alone can afford, may you have the additional satisfaction of feeling that you have fulfilled your mission, that you have discharged your professional responsibility : and when all is over, and the soul-less body is committed to its last resting-place, accompanied by the tears of kinsfolk, the lamentations of friends, and the blessings of those who had been ready to perish, may these, as they stand around the yawning grave, exclaim—

“ His words were bonds, his oaths were oracles ;
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate ;
His tears, pure messengers sent from his heart ;
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.”

And, in years to come, as the wayfaring man or the wanderer saunters through the graveyard, reading the inscriptions sacred to the memory of the mighty dead, may his footsteps be arrested as he approaches the tablet which patient, friend, and relative have combined to erect to your remembrance, and whereon he finds tritely but truthfully inscribed your character—

“NON SIBI; SED TOTI.”