The faculty of inspiring confidence, like the love of children and dogs, may be inborn, for there undoubtedly are men highly esteemed and of acknowledged ability, but whom none of their friends think of employing professionally. A want of appreciation of the patients' state of mind, which is naturally focused on their ailments, may allow the doctor to discourse on his hobbies and private interests; they are, of course, important for his own well-being, but from the patients' point of view his *raison d'être* is solely to discuss their urgent needs. No doubt attempts to distract them from themselves have their place and value, but the time for this is after, not before, a full—often, it must be admitted, tedious—hearing and consideration of their troubles so as to unburden their minds and ensure complete satisfaction. In doing this there must be calmness without coldness, decision without dour dogmatism, friendliness but firmness. It may be difficult to steer between saying too little and talking too much, and while avoiding garrulousness there is the temptation to imitate those who by a sententious or somewhat cryptic phrase get out of a difficult situation for the time but seldom satisfy their patients' wants. Honesty and truth are essential, but what may at the time seem the whole truth should not always, in the light of human fallibility and his best interests, be communicated to the patient; thus a death sentence given bluntly on what may prove to have been insufficient grounds benefits neither the patient nor the doctor. It is well to remember that a doctor's dictum is not forgotten easily by his audience; and so, though often pressed for a premature opinion, it is wise to refrain from speculative prophecy, which of all mistakes is the most gratuitous. In making mistakes, as inevitably all must, it is better to err on the side of optimism than of pessimism. It was said of the late Sir William Osler that "he never left a sickroom without leaving behind renewed hope."

The doctor's relation with other medical men (popularly spoken of as medical etiquette or ethics, with a thinly disguised dislike and a suspicion of a mysterious trade unionism) is in reality a very simple matter—obedience to the golden rule of treating other colleagues as we would wish them to treat us. In carrying out this elementary principle there is nothing more obvious than total abstinence from adverse criticism of other medical men. To maintain your own opinion is right and proper, to depreciate the advocate of a different view not only savours of a weak case, but is an act of treachery to a profession the motto of which should be team-work. Some rather elementary people seem to have the delusion that by undermining the reputation of others their own will be left standing out in bold relief, not realizing that such prominence may be of a kind other than is hoped—namely, bad as well as bold, and far from advantageous to their interests. Before judging of what another medical man is reported to have done or said it is instructive to bear in mind how rumour may transform your own actions and remarks out of all recognition. The expression of unkind thoughts about another is a further step, and so commits the speaker that it has a boomerang-like effect, for whenever they meet he pays the embarrassing penalty of discomfort and realizes that "evil communications corrupt good manners."

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HEALTH.

Almost as important as common sense and a sympathetic and healthy mind are good health and physique to withstand the strain of hard, continuous work. To avoid illness is no easy matter among the numerous exposures to infection in times of epidemic disease, especially when overworked. Doctors should not only advise, but in their own interests set a practical example in personal hygiene, proper recreation, exercise, and holidays, in spite of the numerous difficulties that surround them. From insomnia, headaches, and dyspepsia born of irregular and hasty meals a man may become angular, forgetful, and deficient in the qualities which make for his success with trying patients. The habit of keeping fit should be maintained during student life by combining, as the best men so often do, wisely organized work with active games, thus gaining,

in addition to professional equipment, experience and an imperturbable bearing in the give and take, the competitions, and the team-work of later life. On the other hand, great things have been accomplished by medical men crippled or physically handicapped in one way or another; incapacity in one respect may, by compensation and concentration, result in a high degree of excellence in another direction; the bodily weak may become a mental giant, and those ill adapted for success on general lines may, by intensive study in a narrower sphere, become specialists of eminence.

Terence's line "*Homo sum; humani nihil a me alienum puto*," applies most certainly to our humanitarian calling; but although wide culture, literary activities, and hobbies are good for the soul, these are for private use and not for parade. There is widespread belief, often no doubt erroneous, that a man cannot excel in more than one line, and so when a doctor is known, for example, as a writer of verses, most people are inclined to consider him too good a poet to be their common-sense guide, philosopher, and friend in unromantic medical matters.

A method of attaining success, though it may seem rather negative and involve some repetition, is to avoid the conspicuous causes of failure, such as mental idleness, unbusinesslike habits, forgetfulness, unpunctuality, habitual discourtesy, drug addiction, and intemperance. Against the last two rather blatant vices a warning may seem quite superfluous, but unfortunately not a few able men, already in good positions and reaping the harvest, have become shipwrecked on these vulgar rocks. No doubt there are often extenuating circumstances, such as anxiety to keep going when ill, hard driven, and exhausted, recurrent pain, insomnia, and acute mental distress; but the cause does not concern the public, who in any event would not be inclined to excuse the results on that score.

THE DOCTOR'S HIGH CALLING.

Introductory Address at the London School of Medicine for Women

BY

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I SHOULD like to begin with a brief reference to the London School of Medicine for Women itself. May I not say without presumption that a pioneer educational institution which has survived the strains and stresses of fifty years is bound to have acquired an established reputation? It either stands high or low in the general esteem. It has either made good or it has failed to rise above mediocrity. Well, there is no doubt about the status of your school, which, in conjunction with the Royal Free Hospital, holds its own in the best company among the medical schools of the British Empire. It is, indeed, an infant compared with Bart's or with Guy's, which have their traditions of centuries. But, after all, when we talk about traditions in connexion with medical schools, let us remember that their best traditions are scarcely older than the still recent days of Simpson and Lister, and that the London School of Medicine for Women was born amidst the epoch-making discoveries which marked the Renaissance period of British medicine. So it was under a lucky star that your pioneers burst their way through all the obstacles and vindicated the abstract right of women to enter the medical profession by proving themselves apt learners and practitioners of the art of healing.

RIGHT OF WOMEN TO PRACTISE MEDICINE.

The root of the opposition, I suppose, was sex prejudice, strengthened by apprehensions of intensified competition. Not that I dislike strong prejudices, either in men or women. They are often the very salt of life. But we must not hug them too long or too close, and, above all, we must be ready to recognize when a case is really proved.

I only recall this now senescent controversy because,

after all, it was the *causa causans* of the foundation of this school, and without casting the slightest aspersion on the system of co-education prevailing in some other medical schools this great teaching school for women students alone is a proud and happy achievement. There are, indeed, some whose zeal for the equality of the sexes disdains any recognition within the profession of the differences of sex. That may be good logic, but we do not live by logic alone, and I prefer either the masculine or the feminine to the neuter gender. It is no use pretending that men are not men, and that women are not women. And the more I think of it, the more I am appalled at the waste that the world for so long has made of its women—the squandering of their rare qualities of mind and heart, the neglect of their immense capacity for service to humanity. Sex equality had to be stressed when sex equality was denied, but in the future the debate should rather be as to what men can do best and what women can do best, apart from the large common field of endeavour which is open to both. It is division of function, according to special capacity, which makes for good organization and efficient service. The widening ranges of the special diseases of women and the special ailments of children seem to belong naturally to women. But we may be sure that these divisions will not be settled by reason alone. The idiosyncrasies, the instincts, the jealousies of human nature are no less powerful arbiters.

ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS.

And now let me turn to those among you who are newcomers to these halls. You have made your crucial choice of a career, and I congratulate you upon having chosen Medicine. What Wordsworth in his sonnet to Haydon, the painter, said of creative art is no less true of the art of healing: "High is our calling, Friend!" And not only high, but hard. You will find no soft options in the study of medicine, if you have entered here with a desire, not merely to qualify, but to excel, and to earn with your fees the goodwill and gratitude of your patients.

Your new studies will naturally engross the greater part of your time, and those who come quite fresh to science may not have much leisure for other subjects. I would urge you not to neglect altogether those studies which still bear the resonant title of "*Studia Humaniora*," to distinguish them alike from divine theology and the mundanities of law and mathematics. An exclusively scientific training often leaves something to be desired in the way of mellowness and ripeness, if I may so express it, and the professional man or woman of to-day suffers serious handicap unless his or her mind is well cultured, well garnished, and sensitive to the impression of what the Greeks called "*the beautiful*." Do not disperse your energies too widely, but at all hazards avoid narrowness. Most of you, presumably, look forward to general practice rather than to the cloistered specialization of the laboratory. Therefore, read widely of the best. Your medical textbooks contain the rather arid knowledge indispensable for the satisfaction of examiners, but they are markedly deficient in the attractive graces, the uplift, the freshness, and the inspiration that you will find in the best poets, essayists, and novelists. It is not enough for the woman doctor to be distinguished in the street by her spectacles, by her shoes, or by the attaché case in which she carries her instruments. Apart from her professional skill, she should be known by her culture, by her judgement and discernment, by her greater detachment from the idols of the market-place, and by that sure way of approaching a question at issue which is the hall-mark of the trained and balanced mind. I am not suggesting that you should sit loosely to the hard desk of the lecture room. Far from it. I only advise you to make your medical school your academy in the larger and older sense of the term, and not to allow your conscientious devotion to physiology, bacteriology, anatomy, and the like, make you forget that the Muses and the Graces also require the ritual of an occasional libation and handful of crackling salt. Even in your purely medical studies do not be too one-sided. Do not be in too great haste to specialize. The foregrounds of medicine are many and spacious, and you cannot know them too well; and remember that the prime secret of all

education is still enshrined in that briefest, most searching, and most comprehensive of all the aphorisms, "Know thyself."

Passing from these general observations, I wish specially to congratulate you on the golden moment at which you begin your study of medicine. Though in one sense the young people of each succeeding generation are necessarily the heirs of all the ages, you are exceptionally fortunate to be their inheritors now. The only time, perhaps, when the prospects of those entering the profession in the spirit of scientific adventure or with a real enthusiasm for the welfare of their fellows were in any degree comparable with the present was in the early days of Greek culture, when that "divine old man," as he has been well called, the Father of Medicine, Hippocrates of Cos, first disentangled medicine from priestcraft. He first started the medical profession on its separate individual course, with a set of ethical commandments which, after nearly twenty-four centuries, still find as general an acceptance as though they had been dictated in thunder and graven in stone. Medical science was then launched under the fairest auspices and with the brightest hopes, and mankind never suffered a more grievous calamity than when the new science drifted into the shoals and quicksands from which it was only effectually rescued in recent times. Medicine, returning once more to Nature, rejecting all methods save that of observation, and all interpretation save that of strict causation by natural causes, has now gloriously renewed itself. Sure of its direction, it looks forward with great confidence to an ultimate control—if the word be not too strong—of disease, though not perhaps of natural decay, and to an ultimate penetration to the very springs of life and the fount of being.

THE CONFIDENCE REPOSED IN THE PROFESSION.

The medical profession, moreover, possesses, to a degree hitherto unknown, the general confidence of mankind. Men and women in all ages have run with anxious faces to the doctor in the hour of trouble, because no Stoic doctrine has ever persuaded shrinking flesh and blood to be reconciled to pain. Yet the keener wits were never deceived by the professional cloak of mystery with which the doctor shrouded himself from too close a scrutiny and which he dared not put off in the public eye. The reason of so marked a change from a credulous incredulity to implicit confidence is to be found in two words—scientific method.

The Temple of Healing has been rebuilt from its foundations. The fountains of pure water have been cleared from the rubbish of centuries, and through its porticos and halls blows the fresh clean air of free inquiry. Scientists have, indeed, been driven to invent a jargon of their own, because they need such a bewildering multitude of new words with exact and precise meaning; but there is still only one set of scientific principles, and even in the labyrinthine complexity of modern medicine there is a grand and austere simplicity. The world may be able to afford the luxury of several religions; it can only afford one Science of Medicine, and the unscientific systems which survive in the Far East in their old association with religious ritual belong to another and a different category. Even if we have not cast off all our inherited errors, at least we are now emancipated from the devastating theories on which the world was doctored for centuries. Observation and experiment are the only high road to an exact science, and it was early discovered that "experiment is slippery and judgement hard."

This is the age of scientific adventure, and I should like to remind you of what Sir Isaac Newton said of his own supreme discovery of the law of gravitation. He compared himself to a child playing on the seashore who had had the good fortune to find a prettier and more polished pebble than his fellows, but he added that he had not so much as launched his boat on the broad ocean which called the more venturesome to the discovery of continents still unknown. Such pebbles are being found in increasing numbers to-day, because there are many searchers, and Science knows better than before where to look. A few months ago we were celebrating the centenary of Lister's birth. Before long the minor centenaries will crowd upon

us so fast that the world will be too busy to give them due observance. Every department of medical science seems to multiply unceasingly, and still there is no hint of end or limit to the new knowledge that may be found in respect of each. It is a perpetual search for causation. There was surely a prophetic vision of the triumphs of scientific medicine in the majestic line of the Roman poet,

"Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas."

"Happy is he," said Virgil, "who can pierce to the causes of things, and so trample under foot all fear, and fate inexorable and the din of greedy Acheron." The river of death still flows dark and turbid, but the noise of its waters grows less, and the Fates have been compelled to abate many of the worst rigours of their dread sentences. In the search for causes Science has found her cures.

We are not all discoverers, of course, whether of pebbles or of continents. In medicine, as in other professions, the majority belong to the rank and file who do the everyday mending and patching of common humanity. A vast routine of ailment, slight and serious, runs with the sun its appointed course. Men and women obstinately continue to transgress the laws of health, and, in spite of daily articles on diet, we may count with certainty on the regular commission of those dietetic irregularities which produce their mixed crop of disorders in the human frame. So long as the pleasant vices are apt to be the most injurious, our professional occupation will remain. Indeed, the more people read about health and diet, the more they will gossip about their pains and symptoms, and the more assiduous clients they become. You need have no apprehensions, therefore, of any lack of patients.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE STATE.

Even to-day you may hear the pessimists lament that there are not enough good jobs to go round. But do not allow such dismal forebodings to depress your natural enthusiasm. Whatever mediocrity may say, there is always room for conspicuous merit at the top, even if at times the scramble is intense and the waiting tedious. In no profession, I believe, is the percentage so high as in the medical of those who make a fair success out of their practice. Some sixty years ago Sir James Paget was at pains to follow up the careers of a thousand medical students who passed through the medical school at Bart's. He found that of those who actually reached practice, 66 per cent. made a very fair success of it, meaning by that that they were able to maintain themselves as professional men in adequate style. I feel sure that if a similar investigation were undertaken to-day the percentage would work out even higher, and that it could be shown to have risen in a specially marked degree as a direct result of the National Health Insurance Act, which has proved a good friend, not only to those who participate in its benefits, but also to the general practitioner, whose work has contributed so largely to its success. The State to-day not merely recognizes, but earnestly realizes, its direct responsibility for the health of the people, if only because an ailing people means a discontented and an inefficient people, and a constant drain without return upon the national expenditure. We suffer in this world for sins committed against the laws of health and decency; the resultant diseases are of human making, and not one is fairly chargeable to Providence. This may seem almost axiomatic to the younger generation, but it was a real discovery to a generation which has not yet wholly passed away. The average doctor of to-day, therefore, is no longer engaged in purely private practice; a considerable percentage are servants of the State in one form or another. This association of the profession with the State will increase and not diminish, and it opens out an ever-widening horizon of honourable and profitable employment.

Consider, too, the same association of the State with the profession in connexion with the more scientific side of medicine. Research would fare very badly without the State's assistance, inadequate as it is, but those who are ambitious for large incomes had better not take up laboratory or research work, which always reminds me of the swarming activity of bees and ants, narrowly intent on the infinitely little. This work is nevertheless of infinite importance and demands a self-sacrificing devotion from which

few emerge to name and fame. The consolation of the majority must be that all scientific discovery, however humble, contributes to the imposing pyramid which the rare master builders raise. It is only when something spectacular is done, or when something fits with a click and completes the cross-word puzzle which carries the big prize, that the limelight is thrown on to the research worker. But the work goes on with unhesitating step, and I hope that in spite of what I have said some of you will be lured into the enchanted—if inadequately remunerated—regions which give entrance to the penetralia of Nature, remote enough from the everyday world, yet subtly connected, even with what seems most distant and non-related, by an endless chain of direct causation.

But no doubt the majority of you will join, not the noble army of martyrs to the cause of pure science, but what I may call the goodly fellowship of practising doctors and surgeons. You will find even here scope for the exercise of all the altruism in your composition. The old idea is not yet wholly dispelled that the doctor, unlike the lawyer, ought to be so pleased with his success, if a cure results, that he might reasonably forgo his fee. Perhaps you may feel like that once, or maybe twice, in your early novitiate, when a doubtful and difficult diagnosis, to your great relief, turns out to be correct, but with growing confidence and success you will find new beauties in the text that the labourer is worthy of his hire. I do not believe in the importation of trade union methods into professional life. Whatever is good in trade unionism we doctors already possess, and the British Medical Association, of the working of which I have had invaluable experience during the past year, exists for the protection of the just interests of the doctor. Let me urge you, therefore, to join the Association as soon as you are qualified for admission. It is the strongest physical bond of union in the profession. Its central administration is kept in constant touch with all its Branches, and through the Branches with each individual member. It is co-extensive with the British Empire in its organization, and, while it promotes the sense of fellowship and comradeship, it also possesses a cutting edge, which is kept bright, sharp, and aseptic for the occasions when the profession has to defend its rights against encroachment.

THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP.

But there is also another and more spiritual bond between doctors, and that is the common spirit which pervades their ranks. I do not wish to pitch the note too high. It would be fantastic to pretend that doctors are immune from the ordinary failings of humanity. But I do think that their calling brings into continual play their finer feelings and instincts, and that doctors are specially sensitive to the call of duty. The public may poke its fun at the Faculty, as a Faculty, especially when it is consciously playing its *beau rôle* on the raised dais, but they know that the doctor's fine coat will be off in a trice when there is emergency work to be done and seconds are precious.

The medical art can do much and will do more, and you may be sure that, as you grow grey in its service, you will see it held in ever-increasing honour. I would only counsel you, as the specialist extends his sphere on every side, not to be tempted to neglect the close, careful, and anxious method of clinical study, which remains no less essential than before. The forward march of science will not absolve you from hard work, and the clinical wards of a great hospital and the teaching of an expert clinician are still the indispensable foundation of the doctor's training, without which all the book learning in the world is of small practical use. The apprenticeship may seem long and the course toilsome and arduous, but it has been well surveyed, and the short cuts which look promising are apt to prove fallacious.

I began by quoting to you Wordsworth's famous phrase, "High is our calling, Friend." I will end with the three closing lines from the same sonnet, exhorting you in all earnestness

"Still to be strenuous for the bright reward
And in the soul admit of no decay:
Great is the glory—for the strife is hard."