
Introductory Lectures. London Hospital

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to be kindred professors, and since it was the will of the founder to unite them, there could be no reason why they should not be linked together in the bonds of friendship and a common aim, and work harmoniously together in the promotion of our special and legitimate purposes. He congratulated the College in having the Rev. Mr. Espin as the administrative head; and expressed the obligations of the professors to the Dean of the Faculty—Mr. Sands Cox—and to the Press; and concluded: "Now, with all our best and tried friends still with us; with the press to aid us with its influence and good services; the students with us, of course, and the public also with us; with a renewed, earnest, and faithful determination on the part of the professors to aim at the highest phase of instruction, and of teaching power, and means,—with these things in our possession and in our hearts, we conceive our prospects are truly encouraging, and on these grounds, therefore, we rest our hopes and our claims for a future of increasing usefulness and increasing prosperity."

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

MR. BARNARD HOLT, Senior Surgeon to the Hospital, delivered the Introductory Address. He inculcated the absolute necessity of a sound preliminary education, to enable the student not only to appreciate that which he has to learn, but to fit him for the position which every member of the medical profession may hope to attain. But even the fortunate possessor of the most comprehensive preliminary education had much to effectuate; by his own industry. There was an education derived from self-discipline and reflection that no school could bestow. The more cultivated the mind of the practitioner, the more his intellect was sharpened by rationalistic exercises, the more his moral perceptions were developed by a vigilant conscientiousness, the more his nature was softened by an indulgence in the refined pleasures of taste, so much the more efficient would he be in the practice of his art, the greater would be his perspicuity in discriminating nice shades of disease, the richer would be his invention of resources, the more persevering his zeal for the welfare of his patient, and, above all, the more liberal and just would his bearing be towards his professional brethren, whom his enlightened understanding would have taught him to regard, not as rivals, but as colleagues and allies in the great crusade against pain, disease, or death. Mr. Holt then alluded to the students' reasons for selecting the medical profession; and impressed upon them the necessity of exerting themselves to the utmost, and losing no opportunity of gaining practical knowledge by attendance in the wards. Addressing the students, he said: You are about to enter our profession, a profession which, to practise it as it should be practised, will sorely try your self-denial, yet a profession of the highest honour, a profession of the most sacred trust. Do you enter it for emolument, for fame, or with the desire of doing good; or, I might add, in order to combine a competency with the high feeling of the benefits which by a severe course of study you may confer on your fellow creatures? I am afraid, as a general rule, these inquiries are never made. It is a very difficult thing in the lottery of life to bring the young mind to consider seriously all the bearings of the profession he selects. It may be that you enter our profession because your father is already a worthy member of it; it may be that your parents desire to provide for you a competency, which you may obtain by the exercise of our honourable profession; but whether it be the one, or whether it be the other, let

me beg of you that you will avail yourself of every opportunity to become proficient. The lecturer then dwelt upon the indivisibility of medicine and surgery, which he regarded as one science; and, after giving a brief history of the progress of surgery, alluded pointedly to the present state of the profession, and the inclination of the public mind to specialities and special hospitals, which he severely criticised, and said that, although medicine and surgery are essentially one science, the great division into physic and surgery was not without its advantage; that although it in no manner absolved the physician or surgeon from becoming acquainted with all the details that appertain to a thorough knowledge of his profession, yet it enabled him to accumulate a larger experience in the branch he selects than if he practised generally. The surgeon in general practice had but little opportunity for that deep reading and contemplation so necessary for him who was desirous of occupying the highest rank. The lecturer then dilated on the necessity of a thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology as the basis of all sound professional principles, and inculcated the necessity of clinical study as superior to systematic lectures. The book of nature was the book for study, and by it, and it alone, could the practitioner be successful. In conclusion, Mr. Holt said: Industry and perseverance are necessary to success in every line of life, but most especially in the attainment and practice of a noble art which puts to the proof the rarest of the human virtues, and has occupied the thoughts of some of the most gifted of our race. Our profession is, indeed, a noble calling; in every branch it affords occasions of self-sacrifice, and demands the exercise of the highest powers. The physician, by his varied learning, the surgeon, by his disciplined skill and fortitude, and the general practitioner, in his wide field of usefulness, if he fail in the achievement of fame, which is but the lot of the few, he is sure, by the conscientious discharge of his duties, not merely to win the hearty respect of his species, but to command that perfect self-contentment which is the constant attendant of an approving conscience, and the very core and essence of happiness here and hereafter.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

MR. WALTER RIVINGTON, Assistant-Surgeon to the Hospital, delivered the Opening Address. The medical schools, he said, were assembling under the impulse of a great moral force. Underlying almost every form of activity, amid every diversity of mind, there was this common bond of union—attraction to some real or fancied good. The good by which medical students were attracted was success in their studies, success in their examinations, success in their future careers. By success he meant real improvement, real usefulness hereafter. How was this honourable success to be obtained? Essentially in the same way as in every other profession. Ability, labour, and character, were the passports to an honourable success. Ability without labour was the talent wrapped up in the napkin. Ability without virtue would only work. "*Aut Caesar aut nullus*" was a fine ambition, if Cæsar was to be good as well as great, but glittering as the prize might be, it was better to die "a mute inglorious Milton" than the author of a "Don Juan"; better to live a village Hampden than a Napoleon Bonaparte. Real usefulness, not display, was the test of success. But merit might pass unrecognised, be purposely neglected, might want its occasion for display. The very qualities and discoveries which write names indelibly on history's fairest page might produce pre-

sent condemnation and contumely. The revival of the ligature for wounded arteries exposed Ambrose Pare to persecution. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood excited an envy which arrested a circulation of his own, rather important—his fee circulation. Jenner was subjected to misrepresentation for his immortal discovery of vaccination; and though a tardy justice reared his simple statue in the shadow of a Nelson's statelier column, he will never be honoured enough till he find an equal tomb in Westminster Abbey. On the other hand, very inferior abilities, industry, and integrity, secured the magic key which unlocked the gate of worldly wealth and favour. And if money is to be your chief good, the sole test of success, there was small occasion for trouble or for toil. A little knowledge retailed with judgment and discreetly draped in politeness and pretence, would answer every purpose. Success would the sooner crown the practitioner's efforts if he stole a few leaves from the time-honoured text book of quackery. Patronage, pushing, with ingenuity, impudence, and advertisement, would each do much. But before adopting this course, the students should ask calmly, what is the real value of money that is not legitimately earned, what the real value of reputation that is not thoroughly deserved? What has power, what has favour, what has wealth, ever given to supply the loss of honour or the repose of conscience? The lecturer then quoted Sir Benjamin Brodie as an example of perseverance achieving a high success without extraordinary powers; impressed on the students the necessity of work for all alike; the duty which devolved on them of discharging truthfully and manfully the debt which they were incurring; and urged them to acquire, if possible, a love for their calling resembling the devoted love for their arts of the painter and of the sculptor, for such a love fulfilled all law. He referred to the motives with which the students might be entering on their professional studies. They had different talents, different feelings, different motives, different desires; yet the same laws of success applied equally to all; the same paths, the same rules of conduct, the same dangers. These he would endeavour to point out, and would endeavour to give them such general directions for their seedtime as would afford best prospects of an abundant harvest, that ability might not be misdirected, labour not thrown away, and character shielded from injury and tempered for future trial. After giving his opinion as to preliminary acquirement, and recommending matriculation at the University of London, the speaker showed the importance of learning theory and practice together, and keeping the end of all medical knowledge in view—the treatment and prevention of disease. For this purpose they must work with equal zeal in the college and the hospital. Lectures were not to be neglected, and no cry was to be raised that they learnt nothing from them till they had asked themselves confidentially if they really endeavoured to learn, and to supply shortcoming by augmented attention. Observation must be begun at once without regard to the primary difficulties, the strangeness of cases, the uncouthness of the sesquipedalian terms of medicine. After urging them to attend the out-patients in their first and second years, and giving some fitting advice about their conduct in the wards, the speaker warned them against the dangers which surrounded them. Neither trivial nor few, there were dangers to manners, morals, mind, and religion; danger of acquiring roughness and abruptness from seeing so many poor patients, to whom but a short time could be allotted, and who must be kept in order; danger of losing delicacy of thought towards women, and disregarding woman's virtue and their

own; danger of carelessness from the unavoidable infliction of pain, loss of sympathy from the sight of distress; danger of regarding death as a mere professional issue. Familiarity with pain, disease, and death, rendered the medical profession hurtful to cold and careless men, who became more indifferent with every repetition of experience and passive impressions. Add the means and opportunities of ill, and no safeguard but the risk of detection remained against the production of a Palmer or a Pritchard. The dangers to mind were party spirit, and undue deference to authority for example, towards a book, a teacher, or a newspaper. Against implicit trust in newspapers he specially cautioned them. Papers might oppose desirable improvements, or advocate injudicious alterations. He was not arguing against privilege or for the suppression of opinion. Criticism was the necessary ventilation which purified the moral atmosphere of public places, public papers, and public men. England expected every reader to keep his intellect as free as she kept his body, and not to hand it over bound hand and foot to some Veiled Prophet of Khorassan, who would deride them behind the mask for their credulity, and call them dupes for their pains. To avoid the errors of which he had been speaking—over-deference to authority, the snare of party spirit, blind adherence to system—they must earnestly aim from the rising to the setting sun to cultivate a thorough love of truth. Truth knew nothing of an expediency at variance with herself. Truth never winked at pious frauds. A genuine love of truth had no regard for consequences, for truth undecieved as well as avoided deceit. Truth raised no undue expectations, never published delusive statistics or picturesque cures. Truth was altogether humane, exposed abuses fearlessly, nor would ever allow murder to slink for protection behind the distorted form of etiquette. Truth acknowledged error, and made it a beacon light. Truth spoke before kings, and was not ashamed. Truth was not daunted at the loss of influence, the loss of friends, the loss of fees, the dread of misrepresentation, the dread of ridicule, the dread of public or private criticism, the dread or loss of anything in the world; for "truth," as Bacon finely observed, "only doth judge itself, and howsoever these things may be in men's depraved judgments and affections, teacheth that the inquiry of truth, which is the lovemaking or wooing of it, the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it, and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it, is the sovereign good of human nature." "If," said the lecturer, "you become imbued with this beautiful doctrine, that truth is the sovereign good of human nature, a good to which it were well if not only yourselves but all men universally were attracted, you will have a grand principle to guide you throughout the term of your lives on earth, obeying the Horatian maxim to swear allegiance to no master—no master but truth; you will be endowed with a manly independence of thought and action, which, without interfering with the meed of respectful concession to those who are older and wiser than yourselves, will stimulate you to search and see if those things which you hear and read are as you have heard and read them. Ability will be proved and ripened—labour will be an easy yoke—character will be purified and refined." After bestowing other useful advice on the pupils, the lecturer said he believed in the motto of the hospital, "*Homo sum, humani nihilo me alienum puto*." These were the words of a Pagan, and yet they might have issued from the Mount of Olives, so richly were they laden with the fragrance of that catholic spirit which breathes for all time in the benevolent morality of the Christian religion. In conclusion, he again exhorted his hearers to love truth as precious

above all things, and to love a profession which makes truth its search. And when their parts in the world's "broad field of conflict" have been sustained, let death come and meet them at home or abroad; let the busy reaper cut them down on land or at sea, in the battle, the expedition, the tempest or the wreck, on the mission of mercy in the torrid desert, amid the inhospitable ice—far from human help or in the hushed chamber, solaced by the ministry of friendship and of love, in the bud of youth, in the flower of manhood, in the fruit of age which, like the full ear of corn that is ripe for the sickle, bends to the ground from which it sprang—their lives noble, kind, humane, courageous, truthful, gentle, generous, just; on earth peace and goodwill to man—each and all equally will have been brought within the full scope and meaning of the graceful exhortation of the bard—

"On parent knees, a naked, new-born child,
Weeping thou sat'st, while all around thee smiled.
So live that, sinking to thy last, long sleep,
Thou then mayst smile, while all around thee weep."

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address at St. Thomas's Hospital was delivered by Mr. W. M. ORD, M.B., Dean of the Medical and Surgical College. He said that how best to do the daily work was the great problem of our life, the problem which must constantly occupy the most earnest attention of men conscious of the true meaning and teachings of religion. For to do the daily work well, for the sake of the work, and not of its results, from sense of right, and not for man-pleasing, was an act of faith, of love, and of conscience. Men were not slow to recognise in their fellows the energy and the alacrity in daily duty which have their source in the deeper and nobler feelings—service not of the letter but of the spirit; not of rule, but of interpretation, and hence of necessity progressive. And seeing that men and things were nowadays estimated and had power according to their actual worth and benefit to society; seeing that the present high position of the liberal professions was due to the earnestness and sincerity with which they had discharged their functions towards society, it was natural that, standing in the portals of the academic year, they should review their past and its results, and compare their progress with their opportunities. Those who had seen the plans of the new hospital would, he thought, agree with him, that they declared themselves, even on slight examination, to be the offspring of wide care and thought. Those who know something of the history of these plans would know with what care all the good and bad points in the old building had been considered, with what industry comparison and inquiry had been instituted with reference to nearly all important hospitals at home and abroad, and with what readiness advice and suggestions had been received from all persons whose opinions appeared to be of value. Then in the filling of the building would come the consideration of its administration. Here, again, things effete, obsolete, or injurious must be swept away, and the re-organisation would be a task worthy of the energy of the men who had so well discharged the other part of their duties. The school, at first sight, suffered by the present eclipse. But he believed that success lay ready, on condition that they carefully examined and criticised their work, and fitted it to present requirements. In the hands of the lecturers, working in hearty oneness, the school might be expected to flourish in the spirit of its former dignity. He thought that the efficiency and results of clinical teaching

have not been in proportion to the opportunities of the hospital. It would be for the lecturers to turn to good account sources of knowledge and progress now little used or unnoticed. By the recent appointment of Dr. Thudichum they had received a colleague well known for ability and zeal in the path of scientific research, who might be expected to make fruitful many of the hints and suggestions afforded by the cases under care in the hospital. The example once set, and the spirit of inquiry aroused, it might be hoped that St. Thomas's might be able, from year to year, to make valuable additions to the sum of solid, well-founded scientific knowledge. The manner in which the students of the hospital had encountered the tests and searchings of the examining bodies might be regarded as a measure of the efficiency of the lecturers, provided that examinations were always conducted so as to estimate thoroughly the fitness of the candidate for the work before him. A candidate's knowledge should be of fair extent; let him, therefore, by all means be questioned on facts, and even on minor facts, but let him be questioned so as to ascertain his comprehension of the relation of these facts to others, of the laws which they illustrate, and of their bearings on practice. Only in this way could a distinction be made between the candidate who had been crammed for the particular examination, and the legitimate aspirant to whom the examination was an initiatory test and not an end. That this plan was now much adopted must be conceded; yet one saw still examination papers which seem merely intended to test the pupil's memory, and his memory, too, of facts which he would certainly forget as soon as the examination had passed out of sight. And teachers had need of more than mere knowledge and earnestness of purpose; an intelligible and, as far as may be, attractive way, and by encouragement of free questioning we must learn how far we fulfil this and how we amend our instruction. The lecturer advised the students to be not merely listeners and careful note-takers, but also to seek by reading and thinking to fill in and connect the blanks of the outline. But reading and thinking must never take the place of healthy exercise of the body, of the training of hand and eye in operation and observation. Honours and prizes, in reading for which men often forget the rest of their duties, would be productive of harm rather than good if they are thus misused. "Besides, what seems immediately to concern your profession, you have certain qualities to cultivate—the delicacy of manipulation and the firm moral courage which, typified by the lady's hand and the lion's heart, are said to be necessary to surgical success; and the imaginative quality which, typified by the poet's mind, is not less necessary to the diagnosis of disease, the care and management of patients, and in all scientific investigation. Study tenderness and avoid harshness, strive to understand and sympathise with your patients, be generous-minded to your professional brothers, avoid all conscious lucre seeking, and remember, finally, always and everywhere, on whose strength you rest, and to whom you have to render account. So may you verify for yourselves the stirring words of the great poet of the age, who, answering the dreamers of the golden year, sings thus:—

"Old writers pushed the happy season back.
The more fools they—we forward: dreamers both:
You most, that in an age when every hour
Must sweat her sixty minutes to the death,
Live on, God love us, as if the seedsman, rapt
Upon the teeming harvest, should not dip
His hand into the bag; but well I know
That unto him who works, and feels he works,
This same grand year is ever at the doors."