Introductory Lecture on the Opening of the
Forty-fifth Session of the Medical Faculty,
McGill University.
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by
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Gentlemen of the Faculty,

The duty of delivering the intro-
ductory lecture has this year fallen to my lot, and however opinions may differ as to the necessity or advisability of beginning the session with such an address, there can be no doubt of this — that it affords an opportunity, rarely given, of offering to the assembled students words of welcome, advice and encouragement — an opportunity, the responsibilities of which come home to one with the thought of these young and eager lives just entering upon the serious work of life, and to be influenced for weak or woe, perhaps by what the do-
ductory Lecture may say, and most cer-
tly by what we as a Faculty do.
Students of Medicine,—My first duty, ladies, is to bid you on behalf of the Medical Faculty a hearty welcome, and to express sincerely the sentiments of every one of your teachers when I say that you come now into the society, not of mere preceptors who will lecture at you from a distance, but of men who are anxious for your welfare, who will sympathize with your difficulties, and also bear with you in your weaknesses. I can offer us better welcome than to tell you this. I see among you many with whose faces we are all familiar, whose return, and not for the first time, brings refreshment to our benches. To such kinds of welcome are superfluous; I will only say we rejoice to see you back, we trust with refreshed bodies and invigorated minds, to pursue the work of the session. So make of you who is for the first time, stay, settle in this classroom, the occasion is a memorable one, to which I trust you will look back in after years with exceeding pleasure as the starting point of a career of usefulness and honor. For you we have a
special sympathy. Look upon us as elder brothers to whom you can come confidently and fearlessly for advice in any trouble or difficulty.

On such an occasion as the present it is natural that you should expect to hear from me something about the profession of your choice, its position, its prospects, what it holds out to you, and the relation that you as students bear to it. Probably there are few among you who could give a very typical explanation of the causes which, indeed, you have adopted this in preference to others calling, with one there has been the influence of a friend; with another, perhaps, hereditary predisposition; with a third, a sudden inspiration; with another, that innate enthusiasm for the science which is akin to the natural gift that makes one man an artist, another a musician, an inborn natural fitness for that special work, which the man's surroundings, whether seeming or adverse, can neither give nor take away. From these Eustace our greatest men, for others it matters little in what way, the impulse has come, so long as the feeling now possessed
you, peculating every fibre of your being, that
this above all others in the profession you can
most heartily embrace. If however, any
man of you here elects upon it with the idea
that it will do as well as another, that
other will most probably be better for you.

Lukewarmness, bad enough at any
time, is simply fatal at the beginning,
when it seeps the place of that cutting
inexoratness which should send the man's whole
nature to serve him willingly in the work
that he has chosen.

In addressing a few words to you on
the position which the medical profession
at present holds, I must admit that
different ones hold very different views
on that point. Some will tell you that the
profession is undervalued, undervalued,
unhonoured, its members social drudges
—the very last profession they would
recommend a man to take up. Listen to
these croakers:—there are such in
every calling, and the secret of their discontent
is not hard to discover. The evils which
they depurate and ascribe— it is difficult
today to define, in themselves do lie — evils,
The seeds of which were sown when they were as you are now; sown in hours of idleness, in inattention, in delirium, in consequent failure of the principles of their science without which the practice of medicine does indeed become a drudgery, for it degenerates into a business. I would rather tell you of a profession honored above all others, one which, while calling forth the highest powers of the mind, brings you into such warm personal contact with your fellowmen that the heart and sympathies of the coldest nature must needs be enlarged thereby. To consider the practical outcome of all your knowledge, you fallen; the active work for which your four years' study is a preparation. Will not your whole energies be spent in heeding the sick and suffering? in helping those who cannot help themselves? in rescuing valuable lives from the clutches of grim disease? in cheering the loving nurses of the sick, whose often heavy burden you have shared? In giving your words with a most touching trust? Ay, and in lessening the sad sense of human misery and pain by...
Spreading, as far as in you lies, the knowledge and appreciation of these grand laws of nature transcended so ignorantly and yet avenged so fatally?

It cannot be denied that, excepting the clerical profession, the members of it in this country at least, can seldom look for the fruit and reward of their labor on this side Heaven, there are fewer great prizes open to the medical man than to others from whom a long and special training is demanded. He is not raised to command his fellows, his name is not immortalized in history and song like those of our gallant veterans who wear her Majesty's uniform and risk their lives for their country and Queen; he does not sit among the judges of the land, the high places of brilliancy and statesmanship are not to him. While the world at large can reward him with but little beyond a successful practice, in which every dollar he earns represents its equivalent in hard, continuous work. But while the soldier receives your honor and fame, the family physician...
will draw to himself the love and gratitude of manifold hearts; he will have no enemies, martial or political; and his labours, if directed by a wise and prudent skill, will be for the welfare and benefit of all. Such honours as are open to him lie chiefly within his own profession and the small circle of the scientific world. Among these his name may be as a household word, his opinions may be quoted as conclusive, and his writings become standard works; and these honours are very real and very satisfying. Indeed only quote such names as Harvey, Hunter, Jenner, and Florence, to show you what Duncan. But let the student remember that while influence of party may advance a man in other professions above many deserving to himself, the hero in medical research must wholly depend upon his own deserving. To take a foremost place in the wavy and critical field of science he must excel.

And these remarks naturally bring me to a consideration of the state of the profession in this country.
medical policies, let me try to answer the question which has, I am sure, come to all of you more than once in the past few days, "How shall I best occupy my time?" To answer this I take to be one of the chief uses of such a lecture as the present. To those of you who now begin the study of medicine this is an all-important period, for what you do in this session will probably be an index of what you are capable of doing, and will certainly have a great influence on your college career. Two subjects will mainly occupy your attention: anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, and botany. These four constitute the framework of medical science, a portion of which you must. This session be put together—and allow me to indicate how much.

In anatomy you should continue your attention to mastering the bones, ligaments, and muscles, their general arrangement, individual peculiarities, and mutual relations. Do not attempt to dimore, but try to accomplish this.

Those who like can take up the study of animals, zoology and comparative
anatomy, instead of botany, and I have been surprised that so few men do so, for the grasp of principles obtained in a careful study of the form and nature of animals, and the meaning of this upon human anatomy and physiology is more valuable in my opinion than the benefit derived in materia medica from a previous course of botany.

One thing however, do not attempt to take both; you have not time for that.

Shall you attend lectures in any of the trial branches during your first year? May simplistically, no! It would be no reasonable task mere to listen to lectures in China where they did not know the language.

Some of you know

The question whether the first-year student should see hospital practice is different, and one upon which there is less agreement. Some believing that he should defer this until his second session.

Others that he should begin at once.

I hold with the latter. An hour spent daily in the outdoor department of a hospital in attention and study the examples of disease brought in will do much, especially if combined with a little
mulation towards educating proper observation in a student, and giving him a general idea of the names and appearances of many maladies, while everyone of you can learn within the next few months to detect fluctuation in an abscess, and how to open it, to recognise crepitation in a fracture, and to master many other little details which you cannot draw too soon. My advice to you then on this point is, attend the out door department of the hospital when you can. The time 11.30 to 12.30 is very convenient, excepting when you have dissection to do in the morning.

From these remarks you will see that a very full programme is prepared for you, and it is for each one of you to do about the task with energy and determination. Gradually these difficulties will vanish which at first appeared insuperable. Remember well, when beginning the study of medicine, it is but ten years ago— with what enthusiasm I strove very hard at Gray's Anatomy, and attempted to master the structure of a cervical vertebra, and though I succeeded in making a little
headway, yet the matter seemed so very difficult.

Indeed, the bones were as very dry—and, having

run over the leaves of that ponderous volume, the

subject of anatomy appeared so vast, that

my heart sank within me and I felt

also despondent. You will also have moments

when the way appears rugged and the

outlook dark, but never fear; others have

succeeded in the face of the same difficulties,

and will patience and perseverance

you will do so too. Banish the future; live

only for the hour and its allotted work.

Think not of the amount to be accomplished,

the difficulties be overcome, or the end

be attained, but set earnestly at the

little task at your elbow, letting what

sufficient for the day; for surely our plain

duty is "Not to see what lies ahead, at a

distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.

In the second and fourth year we

among you... x x x

And now let me add a word

of advice upon the method of studying.

The secret of successful working lies

in the systematic arrangement of what

you have to do, and in the method of
This is possible, for few disturbing elements yield in the student's life to interrupt the allotted duty—which each hour of the day should provide. Make each one for himself, a live being with the hours of lecture study and recreation, and follow closely and conveniently the programme here indicated. I know no better way to accomplish a large amount of work, and it leaves the mental worry and anxiety which will surely haunt you if your tasks are done in an irregular and deceptively way.

The science and art of medicine is progressive. Therefore colleges and teaching bodies, representing as they do the embodiment of this most progress with it, and that on several lines. Not only must the results of practical and scientific labor in the different departments be incorporated in the lectures, so that in every subject the teaching may keep pace with the times, but newer and better methods of instruction and examination must be adopted, and many other improvements which shall be for the benefit of the student. At this point there are more than among other places in the history other within the last fifty years.
The leading minds in the profession are occupied with the subject of medical education, and there is an almost universal feeling that in many quarters reform is needed. It is probable that the next decade will see radical changes in the modes of tuition, while practical work will be introduced more and more largely into every department. With all beneficial reform the medical faculty of McGill University will sympathize, asking her students to participate therein, believing not in stereotyped forms but in steady onward progress, convinced that

"On our heels a fresh perfection tends, born of us
Fated to excel us."

Some recent changes I would briefly call your attention, and first to the practical examination in anatomy. Though it has always been customary for the demonstrator to test the knowledge of the student on the subject, and while the oral part of the subject was made more or less practical, yet it was felt that something more might reasonably be expected of you.

Therefore, examinations have been
established, modelled after those of the Royal College of Surgeons of London. Nothing will give you greater confidence when you enter on practice than an intimate acquaintance with anatomy, and that you can attain to perfection in your directing work. The advantages in this branch are very great, remember that we shall look for proportionate effort on your part.

The abolition of Theses is a change which I am sure you will all appreciate. They were relics of the past, and though formerly they might have been an important means of ascertaining a man's capacity and judging of his fitness for a degree, this is now done in other and more effective ways, and the Theses had degenerated, as a rule, into a very inferior medical essay quite devoid of originality. At universities where the degree of Bachelor of Medicine precedes the Doctor of Medicine, the writing of such an essay for the latter is never reasonable, but where, as at McGill, the M.D. is granted alone, it is superfluous. The regret goes with it. "Defence of Theses" is no more — a day regarded by candidates with very mixed feelings: an uneasy mixture of accomplishment, own effort, and the criticism it would call forth, and a cabinet underdiing...
When the comments upon productions of better students. The day, as a rule, was productive of little good, for the themes were rarely defended and the best that can be said about it is that it was sometimes a pleasant futility. Many a joke has been made, and much laughter excited over the mistakes of the unfortunate competitors, but occasionally a sensitive spirit has been unintentionally bruised, and has left with feelings of bitterness which would long waxer that pleasant and affectionate remembrance of his recollection of which we would fain have each one of you carry with him to the end of his days.

At the hospital the attendance is increased by 1678 months in which very important changes have been made in the Clinical Department. Whereby the mellowest preaching has been more systematized. Instead of having Clinical Medicine daily for the first three months of the session, and Clinical Surgery in the last, Arrangements have been made that under which the two classes will be easier on siwantaneously throughout the six months. Class taking Clinical Medicine and Clinical Surgery on alternate days, having in each subject one lecture weekly in the theater followed demonstrations at the bedside. You will find this plan perfect.
Endurance to your advancement, and close upon it is the strengthening of what has always been a strong point in this school, a point upon which the reputation of any school must mainly depend, viz.: the efficiency of its clinical teaching.

And further, it is no longer taken for granted that you will compound medicines during the summer week, or study at the hospital or with your preceptors, but you are compelled by law to spend at least six months in so doing, and to present a certificate for the same before qualifying for your degree at the university.

And lastly, the account of material which the Medical School will enable us to extend the pathological teaching of the school. The system we have followed heretofore was good, because it is impossible to instruct students whether to perform post-mortems and at the same time to demonstrate fully to them the lessons of histology. I propose this winter establishing a weekly demonstrative class, in imitation, however feebly, of the course conducted by Liebknecht in Berlin, in which the material collected may be made thoroughly instructive.

The final men among you.

I trust the Medical Society, established during the past summer session, may receive your hearty support. Those of you who take advantage of it, the benefit will be incalculable. It affords opportunities which after graduating
you can never have, of learning how to prepare papers and express your ideas correctly, while it is also a training in the difficult science of debate.

To a man who has made his start in life, which having chosen his path is now following it day by day, there is something heart-stirring in the sight of a number of young men, such as those who are gathered here, partaking in the race which they will run with such varied powers, with such different results, in the trying arena of this world. For he knows well that on an occasion their hearts may be settling with thoughts of the future, and of all that it may be to them. It may be to them. What a high scroll of their breasts before him! What earnest, reverent faces are hidden behind the young faces! What steadfast aims are set as the goal which shall reward the worker for each “passionate knight endeavor” that he makes! Surely such thoughts are to each man among you as a trumpet-calls, summoning all the young recruit to all unison rank in the battlefield of life. And further, like some familiar melody running through the clasps meet the needs mingle with all others, fill the
Students' fondest hope is the hope that he may be the pride of those who have cherished him from his childhood, his finest arrows are in the resolute to do nothing unworthy of their trust in him, his holiest ambition to satisfy their longing for his welfare and advancement.

To the younger ones in such an assembly as his also are bent past entering on college life, the new sense of liberty is paramount. No longer subject to the narrow rules of school days, and to the penalties that enforce them; released from the fetters, but no longer restraints of home, bounded only by the laws of his Alma Mater, which demanded little from him that he would not willingly give. The youth feels himself for the first time his own master, and the sense of freedom raises the growing manhood within him and gives impulse to that self-reliance and independence of action that in after years make the man for the responsibilities of life, where the power to choose is no longer a delightful novelty, but an auspicious care.

So much for the inspiring feelings which animate the student at the beginning of a fresh course; but I am sure many can bear me out in saying that an
not all. The fear of failure underlies every effort, and this fear must be especially present to those who run the competitive race of university career, in which a man naturally desires not only to reach the standard which shall secure him his degree, but also to take a high place among his fellows. This fear of failure abides with some, paralyzing their energies and growing more burdensome as time wears on and their best day is near. But let the student take courage; for through in the nature of things only one man can carry off the highest honours, I doubt if there be one among you who cannot come out well if he will only work as he ought.

Why is it that some barely pass who should come out with flying colours? Why do others fail altogether? Not as a rule from want of mental capacity; not from a lack of the bodily stamina necessary for a severe course of study, but rather from a failure in steadfast perseverance. Men begin well, they are diligent in their attendance at lectures, they keep their hearts into their practical work, they work early and late, but after a time they lose
Temptation comes over them, a temptation as old as human nature itself, one that darts in every age and every path in life, the temptation which the old Israelites felt when "the soulfrighted peas was much discouraged because of the length of the way." Then get tired of continuous study, their hearts grow sick under the monotonous daily grind. They lose buoyancy of spirit, their youth and health strong within them, they want their rules, they want society, they begin to spend their evenings in ways more pleasant than in the dry digestion of books; the hard bit of reading is heavy over the cooking up of more pleasant thoughts. "What matter," they think, "it can soon be made up." And so the man becomes an idle man, half-hearted in all he does, and his grand powers within him lie falttering for want of that earnest perseverance and persistent exercise of them which alone can bring out his latent strength and make the studious all that he ought to be.

But it would not be fair to attribute all failures to this cause. There are some men who fall short, not so much from want of application,
as from lack of hopefulness. They do not remain
her keen reading as they write; they do not grasp
scientific principles as they expected; the diffi-
culties thicken; they now somewhat bewilder by the extent and variety of knowledge required
and at last give up in despair. That ever-
growing effort which alone can carry them
through. "What is the use," they say, as they
stare the harder points, and lay the blame
on the system of instruction which should
fall on their want of confidence in themselves.
They are commonly men of no brilliant talents
yet their brains would serve them faithfully
enough if they would only put forth their
best efforts. Let such believe the truth of heat gain always.
Abilities, well used, often carry the owners
far above the heads of able men. The genius
rarely makes a successful practitioner, but
the careful plodding student who feels that he
must study up his subject with plodding
before he can make efforts of himself
planes, and who acts on this impression,
develops the elements of life-long success in
his academic course.

Sage of you, gentlemen, I would give
the same advice. This feeling of disgust and
weakening in study, this disinterested
sense of want of progress, is natural: be prepared for it. meet it like a man. the new effort will draw out the energy you hold in reserve, and you may find, perchance, as many a student has found before you, that the duties taken up with distaste become attractive in due time, if only from that sense of victory over the lower self which is due to one of the most exhilarating and comfortable feelings a man can have.

Never lose sight of the end and object of your studies, the care of disease and the alleviation of suffering. Some of you will soon be placed in the chamber of the sick, by the bedside of the dying, and the voices of life and death may be in your ears. Think of this now, and while you have time use your talents aright. Your lives will be a constant warfare against a common enemy, implacable, oftentimes irresistible, who spares neither age nor sex, and who, too often, as the memories of the past weeks remind us, turns and bites, avenge the victories of those who have many a true valued victim from his grasp.

Gentlemen, our meeting today
is a sad one, for sorrow is in all our hearts.
One who had endeared himself to all has
passed to that shadow land, which sooner or
cannot await each one of us. Stricken down
the flower of his manhood, checked always
at the outset of his professional labours.
It is inexplicably sad that this fine life, so
full of promise, should have been
suddenly removed. This day we saw his cheerful
honest face was seen in his hospital ward;
—today we mourners follow his body to the
grave. Such a one could not be unremembered;
who have appreciated his uniform kindness in the
hospital. His many good qualities, we need
speak of. The talents to which our university
awarded her highest honours; we will call.
Awell and Awell on the deep respect of the profession at
the corps of one, whom we were proud to number
among us, and ask the students to imitate
that zeal and faithfulness which marked
his earliest career, and which will long
make his memory beloved and honored among
those he served.
In conclusion, gentlemen, let me urge you
all to drink deliberately in pursuant of that
* Dr. Clinic, Horse Surgeon, M.S. H.
Though knowledge of the science of medicine, which alone will make the practice of it satisfactory. And above all things, do not regard the profession of doctors as a mere means of earning a livelihood, and so enter upon it simply as a business. It is indeed a pitiable sight to see a medical man neglecting ful of the higher interests of his profession, and given over solely to the pursuit of wealth.

Remember, you enter upon a glorious heritage; you will reap where you have not sown, and gather where you have not sown, and the knowledge which is your privilege today to acquire so easily has cost others much. We are all of us debtors to our profession; let us thank, being mindful of those that came after us to add our little payments to the pile.

And now, remembering that we have other duties towards your training, the details of your profession, I would on this occasion earnestly impress upon you the necessity of living upright, honest, and sober lives. The way of the medical student is
reset with many temptations, and to escape from the track, he leaves is marked by as many steps a zigzag path: "to right or left, eternal severance."

Above all things be strictly temperate. I will not say that you are in duty bound to give up the use of stimulants altogether; though my convictions on this point are very strong—*but this ido say, that the slightest habituation, over indulgence is as the smallest flaw in some dyke that forms the barrier to a nightly flood, which widening that flaw day by day, sooner or later draws every fair promise, and brings inevitable ruin.

So the thoughtful among you the speculative aspect of modern science will sour, or later prove attractive. Do not get entangled too deeply. I would rather see each one of you good old Sir Thomas Browne's advice: not to let these matters shelfet your pia mater. Lastly, you will not only be better, but happier men, if you endeavour to do your duty day by day, not from any outside aim, however high, but simply because this right...
Content to let the reward come when it will.

"Proudest man yesterday, its aims and reasons?
Worked more today for winking sleep?
Then calmly wait tomorrow's hidden scene.

And fear not toon, what hap re-cen it bring:

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