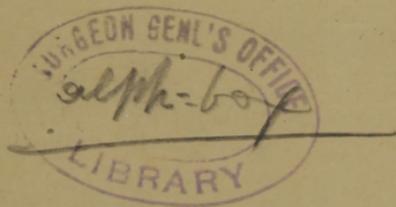


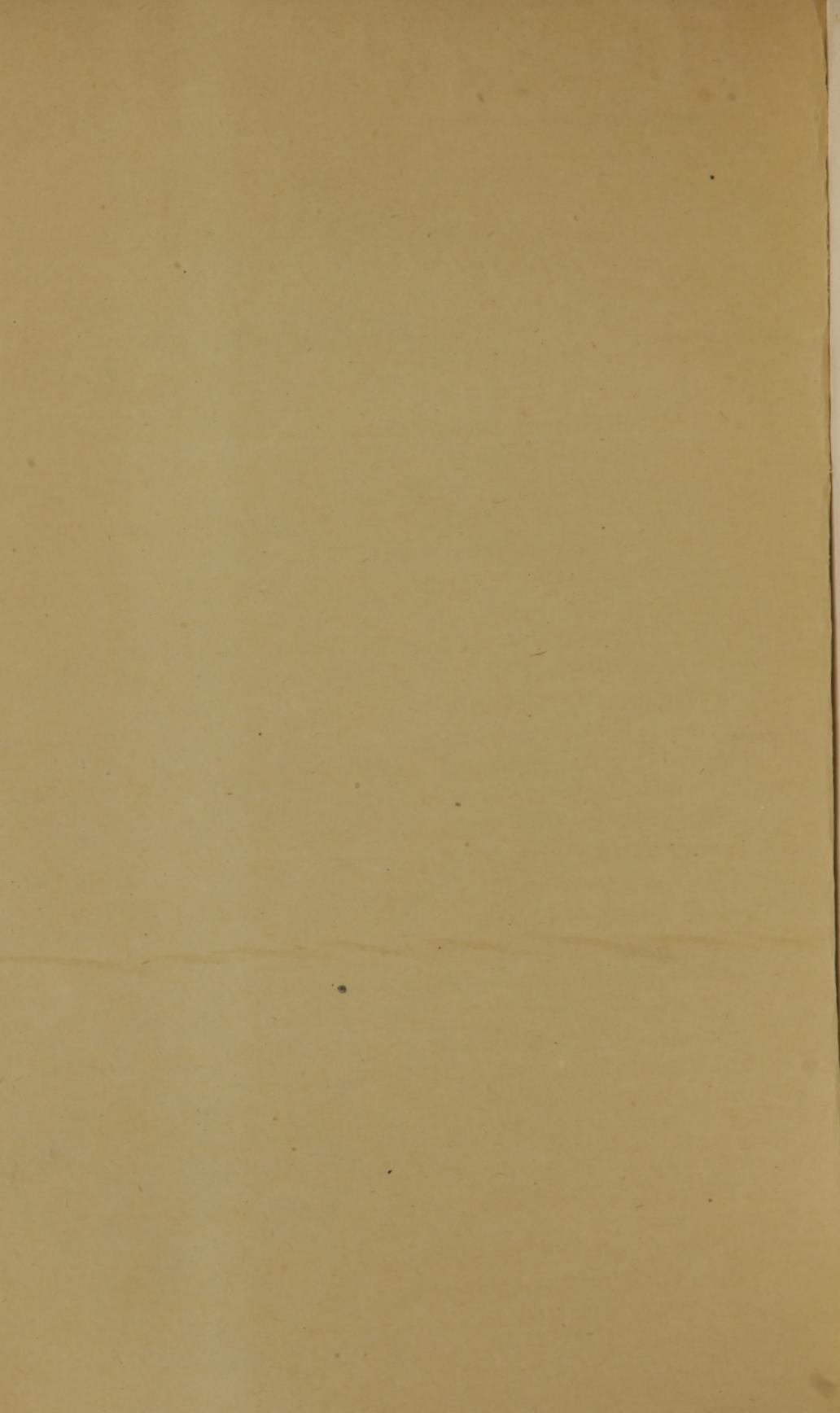
REAMY (T.A.)

General introductory  
lecture + + + + +  
Cinn. Col. of Med. + Surg.

+ + + +

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1839,





GENERAL

# INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,

DELIVERED IN

The Cincinnati College of Medicine & Surgery,

ON

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 1st, 1859.

BY THADDEUS A. REAMY, M. D.

PROF. OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

29041  
Cincinnati:

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

1859.

At a Meeting of the Students of the "Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery," held in the College Building, Nov. 9th, 1859, on motion, it was unanimously resolved, that a Committee, consisting of one member from each State represented in the class, be appointed, to solicit of Prof. T. A. Reamy, for publication, a copy of his "Introductory Address," delivered in the "College Amphitheatre," on the evening of November 1st, 1859.

L. C. FOUTS, *Chairman.*

W. D. PLUMMER, *Secretary.*

## Correspondence.

PROF. T. A. REAMY :

*Dear Sir* :—Believing that the publication of your Introductory Address would tend to elevate the character of our noble Profession to its proper position in the estimation of community ; and assist us by having it in permanent form, to cherish a constant desire to promote the interest of Legitimate Medicine. We, the undersigned Committee expressing the unanimous voice of the class, respectfully solicit a copy for publication.

### COMMITTEE :

W. C. LEWIS, Ky.

W. J. WILLIAMS, Iowa.

J. S. WATKINS, Ohio.

J. R. BLAIR, Va.

H. L. KNAPP, Penn.

J. W. BAIN, Ill.

I. G. WOLSEY, Tenn.

J. MCKINNON, C. W.

Q. T. STOKELY, Mo.

S. R. MILLARD, Mich.

J. S. McPHERTERS, Ind.

H. W. GLEZEN, California.

*Cincinnati, Ohio, November 11th, 1859.*

MESSERS. WATKINS, LEWIS AND OTHERS :

*Dear Sirs* :—It was not until quite recently, that I learned it would be expected of me to deliver the "Public Introductory," consequently it was very hastily prepared, amid the cares incident to pressing professional duties.

Whilst I am fully satisfied that no one can be more conscious of its many defects, than myself ; I am unwilling to assume the responsibility of refusing to comply with a request so unanimously made.

I therefore most cheerfully furnish you with a copy.

Permit me, gentlemen, to express my warmest gratitude for the very kind and flattering manner in which your desires are communicated.

Most Cordially Yours,

THADDEUS A. REAMY.

## INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

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*Ladies and Gentlemen :*

It is with great pleasure I meet you, my first audience, save one, in the city of Cincinnati.

Gentlemen of the Medical Class, we are much gratified in being permitted this evening, to welcome you to the "Free Halls of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery."

We have met here for mutual toil, may our acquaintance be rendered pleasant, and our labor lightened, by the natural sympathies growing out of our common fellowship.

Medical Education in well organized and competent institutions, has hitherto been so expensive, that many young men who had commenced the study, have been unable to avail themselves of the benefits of collegiate instruction, so absolutely indispensable to a proper qualification for the responsibilities they are to assume, as conservators of the public health.

Thus have they been driven out to engage in practice, with no other preparation, than such as could be obtained from books and office instructions often imparted by preceptors, but little better qualified than themselves.

The *graves* of their *victims* are monitors whose very silence calls loudly for united efforts in removing this source of quackery.

It is quite true, there are very many respectable and intelligent gentlemen now in the ranks of the profession, doing efficient work, who had not the advantages of collegiate instruction, perhaps from the very reasons named, could not enjoy them in early life. Yet, by industry and perseverance, they have overcome those early deficiencies,—surmounted every obstacle—and are to day, some of them at least, copious contributors to our Medical Literature.

From their eminence and usefulness, I would be the last man to detract one iota, but hail them as co-laborers in the noble work

of elevating my race from that physical thralldom into which sin hath cast every descendant of *the first erring pair*. Nevertheless, I appeal to those very men, as my strongest living witnesses, to prove the truth of my proposition: That their silent victims testify, of the mistakes of other years.

It must also have been observed by those having their attention in that direction—that where access to collegiate medical teaching is upon the consideration of heavy admission fees, such is the obligation under which the teacher is brought to the pupil, by virtue of said consideration, modified by competition, that M. D.'s are occasionally sent out into the bosom of community but little or no better qualified, than the class already depicted.

It is not claimed that this is intentional on the part of Professors who may be engaged in schools of this character; on the contrary, it may be an evil which they would gladly avoid. And yet who *dare deny*, under such regulations, its growing prevalence? It is a lamentable truth, known to all men who have acquainted themselves with this subject.

Who can estimate the evils, who count the cost to human life?

It was as far as possible to remove the former, and modify the latter great evil, that the present organization of this school was created.

We are encouraged, seeing there are those here this evening as students, who have ample means to admit them to the most expensive schools in the country. Appreciating the practicability and importance of our enterprize, they in common with those whose means may be more limited, have found their way hither, in search, we trust, of that knowledge necessary to their successful co-operation in the great mission of relieving suffering humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Trustees of this College, Gentlemen of the Class, prompted by the motives named, encouraged by the prospects before us, we, the Faculty, pledge you our mutual fidelity, in faithfully keeping the trust you have reposed in us; sparing no needed labor, however toilsome, to make this a school of high tone. *Long may the freedom of its halls be perpetuated.*

The task before you gentlemen is an arduous one. You have entered upon the study of a science, that truly demands of her

votaries, the combined energies of mind and heart. The goal of eminence and usefulness in the profession of medicine, is not accessible by short and easy routes.

Constant, patient and unremitting toil, mentally and physically, is the only means by which progress is made at all.

It is only by careful and scrutinizing observation made by minds educated to the highest possible degree of sagacity, that the paths leading to medical truth, can be discovered. And only by clear heads and steady nerves can they be followed.

To none but those whose views have been rendered broad and liberal, their judgments clear and sound, by a system of close examination and thought, becoming familiar with each primary element constituting the great truths of medical science, could a knowledge of medicine be of service, were it possible, otherwise to obtain it. For so intimately are those elements connected together, yet each playing separate parts, dependant nevertheless, upon each other, that they must be known abstractly to him who would use them in harmony. But you may be ready to ask:—Have not the labors and discoveries of the great and learned of our profession who have gone before, modified, simplified, rendered more easy and comprehensive, the mysteries of medical science?

Have they not established facts, that stand out as GREAT LIGHTS? May we not therefore approach unto them without difficulty, and be correctly guided in the practice of medicine—without studying at such expense, the laws of the constellation, or the properties of the light radiated?

I answer, that in no department of the scientific world has research, and merit labor been more active and vigorous, many of the *brightest sons of earth have died martyrs to the cause*. And in no department has toil been more richly rewarded, as we will clearly show, in the proper place.

The great edifice of medical science is rapidly going up, a very large proportion of the best talent of the world is engaged in its architecture. But if you would engage as workmen on this temple, and aid in its erection, you must thoroughly acquaint yourselves with the materials of which it is being constructed. If you would properly appreciate and apply the truths to which we

have referred, which are its lights, you must examine the foundations upon which they rest.

This will require close, unceasing, vigorous thought, no idlers must be found among the craftsmen, such will sink by common gravitation, and be buried beneath the rubbish. There are times when the united skill and strength of the medical world, are taxed to their utmost capacities. Disease becomes *pestilence*, and at the touch of his breath, the *sons of men wither—yea vanquish like dew-drops before the scorching sun*—mighty storms pass over the current of human health, all is commotion. Then men, well acquainted with every principle, by which she is to be governed—are needed on board the ship of medical truth; to trust her to other hands would be equally hazardous—as to launch a ship on the wide ocean, and commit her to the management of sailors unacquainted with the principles of navigation. The vessel might be complete in all her parts, and yet, for want of skill in her managers, she would founder upon the first rock that lay in her pathway. Again I repeat, you must think closely, study constantly.

But you enquire—are there not examples of professional greatness, attained by aspirants who have never endured this mental discipline and toil? I unhesitatingly answer, NO NOT ONE. I admit that you may become popular among the ignorant, (and those by the way, especially on this subject,) are sometimes found in high places, enjoy earthly fame and emoluments—yea more, you may most certainly gather great wealth—filling your coffers with gold that glittereth. You may do all this on the responsibility and at the credit of the profession, upon which you are just preparing to enter.

Turn your eyes to the East. Behold! a Granite Palace, towering in majestic greatness above all its neighbors—and why? Know ye not that the “Alterative,” “Carminative,” and “Expectorant” are recommended, on good authority to meet clearly all the indications, set up by the entire catalogue of diseases to which “human flesh is heir.” And that upon this express understanding, they have found their way to almost every portion of our globe—“where human foot hath trod the soil.”

Look, if you please, within the limits of our own “Queen

City" of the West, behold the splendor and magnitude of that Fountain from whence issues the world-renowned "Scandinavian Remedies," of which it is confidently asserted, if a man partake liberally, he need never die.

Mark the wealth and position attained by the avowed administration of infinitesimal doses, according to the "dogma" of that *celebrated humbug* Hahnemann, "*similia similibus curanter.*"

Yea, still more—in almost every city, and in many of the hamlets and country places in this "Great Republic," may from time to time be seen gathered together, not only the sick and afflicted, receiving health and happiness—but those who have been bereft of friends, holding converse with their departed loved ones, through the "medium" of some distinguished "Spiritual Doctor." And this is simply a work of ignorance and faith. This kind cometh not out of wisdom or learning, needeth no mental culture for its production, but the more simple and illiterate the aspirant, the greater proficiency he is likely to make in the acquisition of his art.

Then gentlemen, there is no want of evidence, that these vanities of which you have enquired, may most easily be obtained—they are quite within your grasp. If there be one who hears me, who has entered upon the study of medicine from such inducements, I am here to say sir, your chances for success in your enterprise are remarkably good. But before you fully decide upon such course, I charge you, before Heaven—in behalf of humanity, if you do it understandingly—of all the crimes of which the polluted of your race have been guilty, since man first placed his foot upon the "green earth," yours is the DARKEST, the MEANEST.

Hold it up for one moment, and examine it in its bearings. The wretch who, when reason is dethroned by hellish rage, raises that hand, given him with which to supply the returning wants of himself and family—grasps the fatal knife—makes the desperate plunge—and spills the life blood of his fellow, is immediately arrested, arraigned before a jury of his countrymen, tried, found guilty, condemned, and dies as an inhuman monster. When all the world in answer to a good conscience, cries out *Justice is vindicated*—echo loudly answers, "*Justice is vindicated.*"

But I ask, does not his crime sink into insignificance, where he

had but one victim—and that the victim of a moment's rage, when compared to that of sending annually, many thousands to their graves, through the influence of drugs, that may not be directly injurious in themselves, but which “*kill*” by having no correct therapeutic relation to the pathological condition of the cases for which they are by wholesale daily prescribed, throughout the length and breadth of the land. In many instances, the nearest and dearest earthly friend of the afflicted one, influenced by misplaced confidence, unconsciously bears the instrument of death, to the lips of the object of their deepest affection. And I blush to name it, yet the world knows it is true; even ministers of the Gospel of Peace, are sometimes found aiding and abetting this wholesale work of human destruction, by way of long certificates and testimonials.

*Insulted Justice stay thy hand*, they know not what they do. Would you prepare yourselves, gentlemen, for this work? Then in these Halls is no place for you to commence your career. Rather go out into the great throng of human society, and into the privileges of the social circle—study there the weaknesses of your fellow men. Go study those elements of poor humanity, through which deception may most successfully be practised, how a confiding, afflicted public may be duped.

Go learn to blacken your own hearts, corrupt your own morals, and annihilate the last remaining elements of honesty, that may threaten to annoy you during your contemplated enterprise.

Lash your consciences to the chariots of your own ignorance, and corruption. Then, when all this has been done, you will have well commenced the needed preparation for success and eminence in your selected mission; and soon you will find yourselves making such proficiency, as to enable you to engage, at the sacrifice of every principle of humanity, in the damning work of defacing the image of your Creator, for the love of polluted fame and “*filthy lucre*.”

But again I warn you, after a time, your consciences will break the chains with which they were bound—and those very elements of your nature, given for your happiness by approval, if your acts be right, enraged at your inhuman conduct, will torture you beyond endurance—they will prey upon you like

exasperated monsters. The victims of your deception will haunt you to desperation.

But let us turn from this dark picture, I trust there is not a young gentleman in the class before me who has entered upon the study of medicine from such motives, as have been named. Yea, *I know* there are none such present; and how, have I not noted in every face the contracted brow, and compressed lips; Fixing with terrible decision, and determination, the seal of condemnation and hatred upon this whole work, as I have dwelt upon its meanness, and its horrors? And now, as I turn *from* the detestable thing; do I not see every eye *flash* with intelligent sympathy? Behold! every bosom heaves, and every eye grows brighter still—now I know young gentlemen that each of you have been prompted by those HIGHER, NOBLER, PURER *motives*. The love of science for her own inherent attractions. The love of *medical* science, because of the God-like mission,—she has, already commenced, and is destined to perform—“The Preservation of Health, Cure of Disease—and Physical Perfection of Man.”

How far medicine has succeeded in achieving what has just been claimed for her, will be seen by a brief statement of facts connected with her mission through the labors of medical men, during the last few years. Our knowledge of the structural laws of the system, and of the life forces, as well as the resources of our art by way of therapeutic agents, and surgical appliances—have advanced almost beyond conception.

The discovery of anæsthetics, has deprived the surgeons knife of nearly all its former terrors. During the most severe surgical operation, the patient may now remain calm and entirely free from pain. Indeed, he may rather have sensations of pleasure than of pain.

In surgical practice, the saving of life at present exceeds by more than thirty-five per cent., the results at the beginning of this century. And the value of this ratio is very much enhanced, when it is considered that many cases are now successfully operated upon, that have hitherto been abandoned as hopeless, and consequently did not enter into the surgical Reports—these results are doubtless in part owing to the introduction of anæsthetics. Even the stern decree that went forth in the Garden of

Eden has, through *their influence*, been very materially modified in its effects, upon the mother's of our race.

Not more than two hundred years have elapsed, since pestilential epidemics were regarded as being direct scourges from Heaven. It was fully conceded that, no human barrier could in any way arrest or modify their progress. Their victims submitted to their destroying influence and power, like sheep to the slaughter.

How is it to-day? Through Quarantine Regulations, and sanitary law, the plague is scarcely known, cholera is now so well understood—that the majority of cases, if timely seen will recover. This disease has, through the influence of legitimate medicine, been deprived of its former desolating power.

Small-pox, that terrible scourge that depopulated cities, and laid waste countries, carrying death and devastation in its course, visited alternately and periodically both worlds. It has been estimated that it took from the population of Europe alone, an annual tribute of more than four hundred thousand souls—and mutilated and desperately disfigured quite as many more. Truly it had become the monster among disease.

But by Jenner's discovery of vaccination—its prevalence has been almost entirely prevented. If this great truth in medicine, were brought to shed its benefits upon every new born child—soon would small pox be completely extinguished, banished from our race.

Turn your attention to the numerous institutions in our own country, as well as in Europe, for the relief and education of the unfortunate Deaf, Dumb, and Blind—and for those in whom reason, that God-like attribute, has been completely displaced.

Under the enlightened influence of medical science, as now brought to bear upon these calamities; the blind are made to see—the deaf to hear—and the enraged maniac is sent home to his family and friends, cured of his terrible disorder.

This is not all—legitimate medicine has brought to bear means by which the average of human life has been very much increased. According to the reports of the Parisian Hospitals in 1805, one died in every seven who were admitted; now only one in very twelve, showing an ability to save life in the same class of diseases, in the very same buildings, seventy-one per cent., in a period of

about fifty years. Thus we discover that out of the eighty-one thousand who annually pass through their Hospital wards—there is a saving of five hundred souls.

Throughout the Kingdom of France, as will be seen, by reference to the statistics of M. Charles Dupin, from 1776 to 1843, the length of life was increased fifty-two days annually—so that during that time, nine-and-a-half years were actually added to the life of man.

In England, during the last century, the mortality has been so much diminished, that man's days upon earth have been increased more than six per cent.

In our own country, according to the Reports of New York Hospitals. Thirty-one are now saved out of every hundred that were formerly lost—an increase in life, of thirty-one per cent.

Now whether we found our estimate upon statistics obtained in America or Europe, we are justified in the broad assertion that, through the influence of medical science, “there has been an addition of more than one-fourth to the average of human life.” The greatest earthly boon that has ever been bestowed upon our race. Its benefits cannot be computed.

It will be remembered, during the early part of our remarks, we promised to show some of the rewards that had accrued to the labors of medical men. This we have now very briefly done. Skeptics are ready to assert, and have already declared, that these results are attributable to other causes, unwilling as the world has ever been, to allow, and award to legitimate medicine, and to medical men, that honor and glory, which they have so fairly purchased, and to which they are so justly entitled.

But our claims cannot be gainsayed. The Hospital reports to which we have referred, are wholly irrefutable. They are collected from the seat of conflict, on the spot where medical men have desperately joined in battle with the most *terrible* and *formidable* diseases, and achieved brilliant, glorious victories. Bidding the *monster death* stand aside, depriving him of his wonted prey.

We do not point you to these encouraging facts, that you may conclude the battles have all been fought, the victories all won. That all has been done that can be done, in lengthening human

life. That you are to be content with preserving the present strength and position of medical science against natural decay, no, no. But we bid you by them be inspired; resolve that through your labors, new planets shall be placed in the medical constellation—*That the light of medical truth shall shine upon the dark page of human suffering, until man shall live out the whole of his allotted time, three score and ten years.*

As has been more than intimated—your motives will be impugned, even at this age of the world's history, the devotee to truth and science, is not unfrequently the object of derision. The true philanthropist is charged with desiring to benefit himself more than others, so it may be with you. Of one thing you may be certain, the value of your deeds will never be acknowledged during your life. But if you follow the course I have pointed out—when the gentle rose shall bloom over your sleeping dust, your names shall be cherished in the memories of thousands of your race. I would not have you think, gentlemen, that you are not to have friends in life, no, no; you will find them on every side, constantly ready and willing to assist, and encourage you in your noble work. The most intelligent of both sexes will be your companions and friends. Even those who deny the power of medicine over disease, who refuse to award you that to which you are entitled, as contributors to our science—who turn a cold shoulder generally. If disease cross the threshold of their dwellings and fasten upon their systems, they will immediately seek your presence and friendship. Indeed, they are the most solicitous for your prompt attendance. For such are generally very fearful of dying; let their disease assume a serious character, let them conceive that the weapon of death is uplifted, that the pitcher is about to be broken at the fountain, that the silver cord is about to be loosed; then their skepticisms all leave them, they desire you to be the most enlightened physician in all the neighborhood. And if they have never offered up a prayer since their mothers took them into their closets, and taught them to say—"Our Father which art in Heaven." They will now most earnestly pray that Heaven's blessings may rest upon the remedies you may employ. Then, as at all other times, do all in your

power to save your patient—ever remembering, the great value of human life. Let your only enemy be disease.

Truly it may be said of medical men, that they are engaged in a warfare. You are now preparing, young gentlemen, to enter the ranks of medical soldiery. Not to engage in the extermination of your race, by the missiles of war, on the field of battle, where ambition meets ambition in national conflict. Not in a warfare of such character, as that in proportion to the victories you achieve, will be the number of widows and orphans made; writing the titles of your fame with the sword of conquest dipped in the blood of your fellows.

On the contrary, the prolongation of life, visiting the abodes of affliction and anguish, soothing the widow's sorrows, drying the orphan's tears, by preventing further lesions of the domestic compact. And in proportion as you accomplish these ends, in such proportion will you achieve victories.

In addition to the qualifications already named, you will need courage, fortitude and philanthropy. You will, therefore, during your studentship, strive *earnestly* to cultivate those elements of character. When you have gone forth into professional service, you will sometimes meet your foe, in the form of malignant disease; and when your friends and fellows are falling fast on every side, your duty will call you where the battle waxes hottest, and danger is most imminent. Worn out by constant toil, and mental anxiety, you may yourselves fall easy victims. Yellow Fever Cholera and kindred foes, have claimed many *noble ones* of our profession. They have fallen while bearing the means of relief to the unfortunate sufferer,—whilst bearing the standard of our noble science through the lanes of pestilence, and chambers of death; you may be called upon to do like service; you need courage of the noblest type.

You are doubtless ready to enquire, shall we be rewarded for all this labor—remunerated for our sacrifice. I answer, industry and attention to business, with economy, will always insure full competency; but do not expect sudden wealth. Nor will monumental piles be erected to your memories, or the orator trumpet your fame to the world. But you can, in the language of another, “write monuments on the altars of your own hearts.”

You can enjoy that rich and inestimable reward of knowing that you have lived and labored for the welfare of your race. You may also know that you have successfully operated in the ranks of that profession, where some of the greatest and best of the Sons of Earth have labored. Yea more, even the *Son of God*, when on earth in human form, made it part of his mission, to attend to the physical infirmities of the children of men. He was found healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, and unstopping the ears of the deaf. The profession you have chosen, has therefore, the clearest, highest sanction of Divinity.

Go forward then, ever cultivating purity of heart and honesty of purpose; let each so observe his obligations to the Divine Law, as that he may be the great vitalizing centre of moral truth in the locality where he labors. So living and acting, your reward is on High.



