

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON
The Physician X

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DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY
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OF
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To
Drs P. F. Eve and A. H. Buchanan.

as
a slight token of esteem and
respect for their high medical
attainments, and likewise for their
noble qualities of both mind and
heart. This thesis is most respect-
fully dedicated by,

W. L. Mitchell Walker.

"
The Physician."

In attempting to write a thesis upon this subject, which will admit of much being said in relation to it; I can only hope to epitomize it, and note some of the most prominent features—

The physician properly educated, and trained in the duties of his profession; and with a proper feeling, in relation to the sufferings of "fallen and cursed human nature" can do much towards ameliorating the pains and tortures, for which he is called to treat.

Owing to the sin of man human flesh, "fell heir" to many maladies, for which, man

himself, directed through the agency of his "Creator," set about to relieve the sufferings of the race. Led through sympathy he made arduous trials to learn by experiment remedies for particular diseases. With joy to himself and the suffering patient, no doubt he received that eclat, and esteem which was worthy of the noble step he had undertaken.

To go back to the primordial age of "medicine," and trace down, all of the "early lights," who spent their lives, in acquiring information in the treatment of disease, would enlarge this subject to, too great a length, therefore I shall not enter into a historical review

of the subject.

The position of the physician to society is an important one. After going through the required routine of study, and lectures, and he is admitted as a "practitioner." He then takes up on himself a most responsible office; and the faithful fulfillment of which, should be his highest aim. Of the reflecting man, will pause and consider, and "weigh well" the relation he bears to the "sick one," confided to his care; and who expects to be guided by his directions, once more to be restored to health, he cannot but be deeply, ^{with} impressed the responsible office, he has

to fill - The "ful destroyer" seizes the unhappy victim, the contest between life and death is hard, the power of life, seems to flicker, and waver, under the burning fever, relations, and friends become alarmed, and anxious, for the welfare of the patient, in this hour of trouble, to whom do they look for aid and succour? To the physician, he is called, notices the appearance of the sufferer, counts the rapid pulse, sees his anxious countenance, and knows that the "vis vitae" is fast succumbing to the "vis morbi", and now is the time, for him to exercise the means, he has acquired for the relief of disease, he must

bring to bear, all the "treasures" of
information he possesses to combat
the "Monster" if his steps are
directed aright, and the disease
succumbs to the remedies, his pa-
tient improves, great is the pleas-
ure he enjoys to think, he has
been the humble means, in the
hands of "God," of restoring one
to health: and much is the
gratitude due him from the
patient. But alas! if in the
critical moment, he has ne-
glected to prepare himself, and
he empirically, instead of ra-
tionally applies his remedies, and
a false step is taken. ah! fatal
may be the attack, and a burden
of remorse should hang upon him.

The true physician is undoubtedly of inestimable value to the community in which he resides, every one looks upon as a friend in need, and truly he is such. In the hour of physical or mental suffering, is the time for his mission to be performed, at a time when anything but sweet and delightful thoughts occupy the house, when disease prevails, pleasures absent, this is the time that he is summoned, as a counselor, and councilor, and now it is that the true physician is appreciated, and appreciates his relations to the ones in need.

With these relations when called in time ^{of} need, he should ponder

over when not engaged, and make every effort to prepare himself to fulfill, so far as is within human power, the offices expected of him - Diligently searching into the depths of all departments connected with the noble science he has undertaken, to prepare himself for all obstacles that arise in his path, and also to be able to stand with the scientific men of the profession - By thus improving each leisure moment, he accumulates valuable information, which causes him to be respected by his patrons, and welcomed by his professional brethren - Benevolence, fortitude, ~~decisions~~ ^{ence} and resolution, should all be diligently

cultivated by him, for in no calling is their greater need for the exercisings of these, than in the practice of medicine, and its collateral branches - Benevolence needs its exercises when he is treating a patient with many whimsical opinions and notions, and when the patient seems unwilling to follow the dictates of his attendant, also ^{patience} patience here has its share - The physician should not become irritable and out-let, but endeavor to try by kind means and gentle persuasion to overcome the chimerical opinions of the sick one, and thus in cultivating these attributes, he assimilates himself to the great physician of us all, and refines the finer qualities

of his nature. Fortitude decision and resolution, need to be exercised when, in the severe time of trial, when his powers are taxed to the utmost to decide upon a proper course, to arrive at a correct conclusion, then firmly to pursue the plan, he deems correct, and resolutely to meet all accusations thrown upon him. The scenes, and trials which he has ^{to} go through, all tend when properly considered, to draw forth the kinder feelings of the man, and make him more refined, than as some contend, to make him callous, and morose. Amid suffering in all of its protean forms is he compelled to move, and endeavor to ameliorate its pangs.

The strong man, is stricken with an incurable malady, which resist all of his remedial means, directed through his best judgement, and life rapidly departs, and death claims as her own, the smiling beauty, with pleasure radiating from her eye, the admird of all gazers, with every hope of life bright before, and the cherished flower, perhaps of a dotting father, a fond mother, and the pleasure of an ambitious brother, is likewise stricken with the "intractable monster", all are distressed and look to the doctor for aid, but it is without his power, even after the best and most potent means have been used, and she likewise rapidly succumbs to the hand of death.

such trials and scenes as these
are his to go through - all calcu-
lated to draw forth his finer qual-
ities, instead of indurating them -

By schooling himself
also to these scenes, and ^{the} varied
sufferings of 'imam, he should be
better enabled ^{set} to see our utter de-
pendence, upon our ^{his} "Creator," and
see the inutility of human efforts,
when the decree has gone forth
that man "shall die." This teach
him too, that his sojourn upon the
earth is but a short one, and
that soon too, he must undergo
the change, it has been his pre-
rogative to see others pass - The lessons
here taught him, if properly im-
proved, and considered should teach

him to prepare for the "great hereafter," and endeavor to reap the rewards of a well spent christian and useful life -

The field which the physician has to explore and traverse is an extended one, in no profession is there such material to collect from, and store well the powers with which man is gifted, and which under him, truly the "lord of creation." All the sister sciences to a greater or less degree lend their aid in filling up the vacancies in our profession. From chemistry we derive many valuable diagnostic means, indeed from this science both the practitioner and physiologist have derived many

and important truths. The practitioner by means of many chemical reagents is enabled to demonstrate a pathological state of the system, which before was only conjectural with him - In the beautiful and interesting study of physiology, nothing has so much enriched this department of medicine as the rapid progress of chemistry. By means of the acids derived from it, the physiologist is enabled to demonstrate many truths, which were a matter of conjecture and dispute with the earlier physiologist. The science of microscopy too, by its able teachers is fast revealing many hitherto unknown facts to the medical world -

And seems as it were to make
man more wonderful, than the
most imaginative mind could
conjecture - We see too by reviewing
only some of the most interesting
topics connected with the study,
of the physician, that there is
no calling or profession better cal-
culated to lead to a thorough
training of the intellectual man
either. To thoroughly understand
the varied branches, which con-
stitute it as one "harmonious
whole - he will derive as much
benefit in the way of discip-
ling his mind, as could be derived
from a rigid course of Rhetoric
or Logic - In the study of med-
icine ~~to~~ we find much to allure

us on, and make us curious to inquire into its rationale. Much to excite our admiration and draw forth thought to reflect from whence this or that phenomenon arises - After patient labor and diligent research the scientific laborer is compelled to acknowledge its existence, and can only attribute it to the power of the creator, and acknowledge a great first cause, every step that we take forward in analyzing the structure, composition and arrangement of our system only strengthens this, that an all powerful and omniscient being is the author of our existence.

In conclusion I cannot bet-

ter close than quoting the ex-
pression uttered by an able
scotch divine "That next to
the ministry, the profession of
medicine should rank."

For what nobler cause save
the "ministry," can one devote
his time, and talent, than en-
deavouring to mitigate the suffer-
ings of his race—