

SCIENCE

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THE CHOICE OF MEDICINE AS A
PROFESSION¹

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ONE of the most difficult and important questions for the college student to decide is the question: "What occupation shall I choose when I graduate from college?" It is a question, moreover, which every student ought to decide for himself. Every person's occupation should be suited to his tastes and capabilities and no one can decide whether a given occupation is suited to an individual's tastes and capacities so well as the individual himself. It makes no difference who the student is or what he is; if he is the millionaire's son and foolishly believes he need pursue no occupation at all, or if he is the merchant's son and is destined to fall into some niche prepared for him by parental industry, the truth still remains that if he is to enjoy the best gifts of life he must have occupation and that the occupation chosen should be one in which he can labor happily and usefully. Every student here present should study this question with the conviction that it is in many respects the most important and vital question of his life.

You are all to be congratulated upon the opportunity which is offered you for securing a college education. Whatever you eventually do, whatever occupation you elect to pursue, this college education will stand you in good stead, the higher its value the more wisely you avail yourselves of the opportunity it offers. It is somewhat the fashion nowadays to carp at the so-called liberal education and it is cer-

¹Lecture delivered November 2, 1909, to the students of Tufts College.