

SCIENCE

VOL. 78

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1933

No. 2015

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.
Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

MEDICINE¹

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It is at once a singular privilege and a heavy responsibility to address the undergraduates of Wesleyan College on the problems of a medical career, for a subject that is close to one's heart can not be discussed lightly, and he were foolhardy who would advise another concerning a life's work who had not weighed the matter judiciously and long. In the western part of the country where I was born we were taught as students that medicine and the church were the two highest callings to which a man might aspire, and if one were brought up in a doctor's family it required very little persuasion to convince one that ministering to the needs of the body was more important than caring for man's spiritual ills. Experience, however, indicates clearly that the two callings can never be wholly separated, for a man who has a true aptitude for the one generally finds himself responding to the needs of the other; and the son of a physi-

cian must be forgiven the prejudice that causes him instinctively to regard medicine as the highest of all callings.

Historically medicine and the church have been intimately related. The clergy at one time treated their devout followers for physical ills and there are many authentic records within historical times of monks and clergymen who were also doctors. Indeed, that great ecclesiastic of the eighteenth century after whom your college is named wrote one of the most popular books on medicine that was ever penned. John Wesley's "Primitive Physic; or, an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases,"² which first appeared in 1747, passed through countless editions. I have here the thirty-second, which was published in London in 1828. The nature of his approach to the healing art may be gleaned by quoting a few sentences from his preface:

¹ An address to the premedical students of Wesleyan College, delivered at Middletown, Connecticut, on February 23, 1933.

² John Wesley, "Primitive Physic; or, an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases." 32d edition, London, John Mason, 1828. xxiii + 162 pp.