

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

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How to succeed in the practice of medicine by Joseph McDowell Mathews

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JOSEPH MCDOWELL MATHEWS

**HOW TO SUCCEED
IN THE PRACTICE OF
MEDICINE**



Faithfully yours
Joseph M. Mathews.

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IN THE
PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

By

JOSEPH McDOWELL MATHEWS, M.D., LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1898-'9

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THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO

MY WIFE

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS SHE HAS BEEN MY "PARTNER" IN LOVE AND AFFECTION; AND TO HER RARE GOOD JUDGMENT, EXCELLENT ADVICE AND STEADFASTNESS I OWE MUCH OF WHATEVER SUCCESS MAY HAVE COME TO ME IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE AUTHOR.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PREFACE

For the past twenty-five years it has been my pleasure to be connected in a professorial way with several medical colleges in this city. During this time I have frequently talked to the students about "the business side" of the medical profession. They have often asked me to reduce these thoughts to writing; hence this book. I make free use of "the personal pronoun" because I regard this more in the nature of a "heart-to-heart" talk with the "boys" than otherwise. I insert my photograph because *they* have requested it. The book is enlarged that it may interest all members of the medical profession, and the laity are earnestly requested to read it. Many "fads and frauds" are dealt with without "fear or favor." It has been painful to me to see many of my professional friends die and leave their families in actual want. The reason is plain that it was either their own fault or the fault of their *clientele*, and how to prevent this happening to others is the main object of the book. I have tried to write "a guide to success" intended principally for medical students and the young practitioners of medicine. Those who have already succeeded and are *satisfied* need

not read the book unless they want to. The wives of doctors, I believe, will be pleased with the sentiments herein expressed.

The administration of drugs has not been considered at all, but "Art in Medicine" has received full attention. Character, which is the very foundation of success in any calling, is fully dwelt on, together with the many attributes that go to make up a gentleman, and the possession of which is necessary to insure success in medicine. The "foibles and follies" of *society* are held up to view, and the life of the doctor pictured as it really is. I hope that the book may be of some comfort and advantage to a few struggling young doctors at least. The "*lights and shadows* of a doctor's life" receive equal attention, and to relieve the *monotony* a jocular vein is interspersed here and there.

THE AUTHOR.

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