

April 19, 1948

MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I consider it an honor to have been invited to be your guest speaker in this occasion and I wish to thank your president for the courtesy which has afforded me the opportunity of being with you today. I recall quite vividly my thoughts, and emotions on a similar occasion thirty-two years ago. Allow me to extend to you all my sincerest congratulations for having successfully completed this important course of instruction. This diploma which you will now receive constitutes the reward of your efforts. It is the passport of efficiency which will accompany you to the next step -- the struggle for existence.

I wish you all success. Success, however, will not come to you unless you try to attain it. Success can not be inherited; success is personal and must be attained through sacrifice and perseverance. Your success of tomorrow depends upon how successful you are today. Try to carry on your work always with enthusiasm and with honesty to yourselves. Bear in mind that there exists between you and the ophthalmologists an important

professional relationship. They will depend very much on the manner in which you follow their prescriptions for eye glasses. God was kind when He decreed labor as the law of life. A good percentage of the wealthiest men in the United States have risen from the laboring class. The wealth that stays is gained through industry and rational economy. Many sons of rich men do not feel the need of strict economy, and they are not impelled to be industrious to secure a livelihood. The result is, they become spendthrifts and acquire baneful habits. They soon squander their patrimony and take their place among the poor from which conditions they can not rise. The poor, on the contrary, who tasted the difficulties of poverty, work hard and economize to better their conditions. Through constant thrift and perseverance in their work they acquire wealth and power. Out from industry grow all the rights of property and conditions for the development of the sentiments of humanity. Nothing exposes men to such moral perils as indolence. They who are unemployed, because of idleness constitute the most dangerous stratum of society, and forced indolence is sure to expose you to a thousand temptations and is likely to weaken the fibers of the moral life.

You have chosen Optometry as your line of endeavor. Your definite aim now should be to gain skill in it. Do not permit yourselves to go through life without gaining all the skill that is possible to achieve in your chosen profession. Thoroughness is the secret of success. Success is intensive rather than extensive.

You have stood the test of all these years of study. You have achieved this through patience and perseverance. When you go into the world, I urge you to be prepared to face life courageously. You are now being admitted into the fraternity of useful and enlightened citizens who will be expected to maintain a well informed public opinion, disciplined democracy, and that social solidarity so necessary during this trying period of unrest and distrust. In the consideration of important national programs please keep your heads serene and study them with dispassionate and unprejudiced minds. Give our elected leaders your loyal support and cooperation so that they may be able to carry on their difficult tasks to a successful completion.

Before I close, I want to advise you, my friends, that in your quest for knowledge, for truth; in your zeal to acquire the technique of your calling, and in

your desire to serve our country, do not forget your religion and your church, for when you are confronted with questions for which there are no answers, when the whence and whither of life prove to be uncertain, and when you are distressed and forsaken you can seek refuge in religion. You will find solace there, for Divine Providence never fails. Religion is a vital force in life and the individual who does not have a firm religious belief is truly handicapped. The evils of communism which are causing so much fear and unrest in the world today, are the result of Atheism. Keep the torch of spiritual goodness and faith burning in your hearts, lest you be left on the highways of life begging for a morsel of moral satisfaction.

My best wishes are with you all.

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