

# Special Issue

NOVEMBER 05, 2018



## Graduation Day, 1922: Dr. Ida S Scudder's address to the First Batch of Medical Students (Part 1)

*“To the students with whom I have worked in such close fellowship during the past four years, I today extend my greeting and my congratulations that you have achieved that for which you set out.*

*Today we stand as it were on the mountain top of achievement .... You have bravely and splendidly toiled on. There will probably never be a time in your lives which will hold the same meaning that today holds; the thrill of having accomplished much gives you joy, but much lies before you of work to be done; but as among the mountain ranges so in life there are still greater heights in the distance; more stony paths to climb, and you will realize you have only made a beginning. You cannot remain where you are, satisfied with this first achievement. Surrounding every mountain peak there are valleys, and into these valleys one must go .....*

*. . . you will belong to the noblest of all professions. Your mission of administering, lifting the fallen, bringing health and happiness wherever you go, living a life of self-forgetfulness is the noblest thing one can choose.*

*. . . . The practice of medicine affords scope for the exercise of the best faculties of mind and heart – these and many other things make the profession you have chosen the noblest and most self-sacrificing of all. The suffering need love, sympathy and tenderness. At times you will have to tax to their utmost every mental and physical faculty.*

*. . . You must learn to be cool, collected and quiet; to have presence of mind; rapid thought and action in the most trying circumstances. You must learn to have wise judgment in moments of great peril; you must train your tempers until you have complete control, for your temper will often be taxed by exasperating patients and their friends. You must learn never to betray indecision and worry, for, if you become fluttered and flurried, you will lose the confidence of your patients. Practice and experience will train you to have firmness and courage. Do not always look for gratitude, for sometimes when you are most deserving, you will get the least.*

*. . . There will be disappointments; your pet theory will be dashed to the ground; your most painstaking laborious work, unsuccessful; there will be cares, anxieties, failures which are very common to a professional life...*

*Face trials with a smile, with head erect, and a calm exterior. If you are fighting for the right and for a true principle, be calm and sure and keep on until you win.”*

(To be continued)

Scudder Ida S., Commencement Address to the First Graduating Class, 1922 quoted in *One Step at a Time: The Birth of the Christian Medical College Vellore*, Reena George, Roli Press 2018.

Available at ELS book store and online

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/8193750179>

<http://cmykbookstore.com/one-step-at-a-time.html>