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## STANDARDIZATION VERSUS MEDICAL EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. CHARLES R. STOCKARD

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THE very agreeable task has fallen upon me to welcome you here to-day. When welcoming strangers, newcomers or initiates into one's castle or into one's clan it seems to me both cordial and fair to openly consider what manner of place it is to which you are being welcomed and to presume something as to why you seek welcome here. The simple tone of welcome does not always indicate the kind of consequences to follow—some of you may recall the very gracefully poetic invitation of the spider to the fly.

This place is one of those ancient human arrangements in which a group of somewhat mentally mature and experienced persons undertakes to encourage and lead a larger group of youthful aspirants into the knowledge and methods of a learned profession. This kind of arrangement has been jealously perpetuated throughout the generations of human history to be handed down to us. It has been accepted as necessary

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at the opening of the session of Cornell University Medical College, New York City, on September 29, 1930.

in the existence of tribes, kingdoms, empires and free states. And it belongs to that order of things commonly called schools.

All of you have had far beyond the average experience in schools, and in this place you are not altogether strangers. But have you stopped on the threshold to ask yourselves what differences there are between this place and the schools you have already attended—and, more important still, what are the different reasons for your having been in the different grades of schools? All schools are not alike and we attend each for a different reason to ourselves and to the state.

Attendance in the elementary school is compulsory and is demanded by almost all enlightened governments. The state requires and supplies a certain amount of education. But, as in the case of most things forced upon us, the child frequently assumes that he is attending school for the state or the law or surely for some one other than himself. In the ele-

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