

before the notice of this Society. I have been at many conventions and congresses, and I am free to say that here in our own Society papers have been read and discussed which would grace any congress.

One of the great advantages of an association of this kind is the good fellowship it encourages. The men are thus brought together. And I think, in such an arduous profession as ours, this feature should be cultivated still more.

As I look back I have found that the men who are at the forefront of medicine in Montreal are amongst the most regular attendants at the meetings of the Society; they are our leaders. To quote Osler again:

“The well-conducted Medical Society should represent a clearing-house in which every physician of the district would secure his intellectual rating, and in which he could find out his professional assets and liabilities. We doctors do not take stock often enough, and are apt to carry on our shelves stale and out-of-date goods. The Society helps to keep him on up-to-date lines and enables him to refurnish his mental shop with the latest wares. Rightly used, it may be a touchstone to which he can bring his experience to the test and save him from falling into the rut.”

One of the hopeful features of this Society is the number of young men amongst its members. I congratulate them and I would urge upon the hospital housemen not to neglect such an opportunity as now presents itself to them, and which may never occur again. Now is their accepted time. Now is their day of salvation. And while on this point I would urge that as opportunity offers the young man should attend not only his local Society, but when he can, the Provincial, the Dominion and Imperial Conventions, and thus keep in touch with the men and advances of the times. One may learn much from the reading of a paper, but much more from hearing the man behind the gun. And I would recommend them, in addition, to drink from time to time at the fountain-head of the great medical centres abroad. In this way Chauvinism is averted and perennial youth maintained and arteriosclerosis of medical enthusiasm prevented.

Gentlemen, we have entered upon another year's work, and while in some ways the success may partially depend upon its officers, its real success depends on the enthusiasm and energy of its rank and file. An interesting series of papers will be presented. Case reports and pathological specimens are to be brought before us, and now, with all our hospitals, our universities, our specialists, and the great wealth of material at our disposal, we should have no difficulty in having an interesting and instructive winter.