

The "Sister Institutions" toast was responded to by Mr. McClellan, representative of McGill College, Montreal; Mr. Harkness, of Queen's College, Kingston; Mr. S. F. Houston, of Trinity University, and Mr. Rush, of the Dental College.

A number of other toasts were honored during the evening, including the learned professions, Press, Ladies, etc.

One of the most pleasing features of the evening was the singing of the Glee Club of the College. This valuable auxiliary to the rest of the entertainment had been by no means forgotten. Mr. Robertson rendered very creditably two cornet solos, which received hearty encores. An Italian string band in the gallery rendered their usual sweet strains at various intervals.

The singing of the National Anthem brought to a close the 12th and most successful and enjoyable banquet that Trinity Medical College ever held.

PROFESSIONAL DIGNITY AND CONTRACT PRACTICE.

To the medical profession belongs a dignity and a position handed down to its present members chiefly through the efforts of those of our predecessors whose high principles and feeling would not allow this dignity to be sacrificed even in a keen struggle for existence. How much real value this position of the medical profession has to-day must be apparent to any one who is at all acquainted with the ordinary work of a physician, and it is the duty of all to see that this position be constantly and firmly maintained. Many are the inducements held out to the practitioner to make money out of its barter and sale, and, in this age of cunning, deep and numerous have been the schemes planned by unprincipled people to induce those of us who may have felt the reverse of fortune to sell their self-respect in a moment of need, and, it may be a surprise to some to learn what these devices are. There exists a scheme among a few "*very thrifty*" merchants of having their employees furnished with medicine and medical attendance by contract. Some poor doctor is employed by the firm to take charge of say one hundred or more employees at one hundred dollars per year—and this might be excusable on the part of such establishment if it were simply for the

protection and assistance of those who might fall ill whilst in their employ through accident or overwork; but, so far from such being the case, some small sum like ten cents a week is deducted from the employees to pay for medical attendance, thus forcing the poorly paid mechanic or shop girl to pay five dollars and over per year for what the firm buys for a dollar, and selling at an immense profit the brains of the poor medico. Whilst the greatest sympathy is to be given to that physician who, with the responsibility and care of a family pressing upon him, is manfully struggling to procure for them every advantage; yet, we assert, the labours of the physician are heavy enough and he should have all of their profit. Something ought to be done to stop the wholesale inroads into the rights of the profession by schemes for contract practice. In the City of Toronto, we understand, there exists an organization for ensuring the lives of artisans and mechanics, and the medical men making such examinations are paid at the enormous rate of "*ten cents*" per risk, and still worse, this life insurance organization was originated by a medical man of high position. We are not inclined to favour any form of contract practice where the precise number of visits cannot be specified; it is of all practice the most unsatisfactory. The majority of the so-called benevolent orders rely for their popularity and existence, to a great extent, upon their physician, as his services constitute the chief benefit. Whilst we would not wish to have the physician a being without self-sacrifice or benevolence, we earnestly hope, before long, some more satisfactory and uniform plan may be adopted which will satisfactorily deal with this growing evil.

THE TOXIC ACTION OF THE POTASH SALTS.

The idea that all the compounds of potash act as protoplasmic poisons, and are therefore muscle destroyers, has long been held by pharmacologists and practitioners. M. M. Chevron and Foques, among other conclusions place the following as important:—"The bromide of potash joins to its sedative action on the nervous system a depressing action on the muscular system; it is thus a neuro-muscular agent." They also state that the bromide of soda is not a muscular depressant and