

who have these in charge may have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts were appreciated by the students now leaving them. We refer to the departments of Hospital Clinics and Practical Anatomy, and make bold to say that whatever may be the faults of McGill in other particulars, at least in these she can challenge competition with any teaching body in medicine throughout the world.

To the ladies, the vision of whose smile and genial presence here to-day has been an incentive to the discharge of our duty throughout our college course, we return our sincerest thanks for the honor done us by being with us to-day. We make bold to address you as the major partners in our profession. When those who boast themselves as being the most manly and strong fails, woman, with a heroism, has still been true to her part, as the deserted streets of our pestilence-stricken cities, the bloody field and the crowded wards of our hospitals bear ample witness. And we must admit that her sympathy, her unremitting devotion has done more in restoring health than the fulfilling of our directions or the administration of our nauseous medicine.

The science and practice of medicine needs no defence at our hands. We pride ourselves on having chosen one of the most philanthropic of professions. True, it is. To stand beside the bed of the aged invalid and smooth his pillow for his inevitable grave, to stay the hand of death from laying his rude hold upon the young, the beautiful, and the strong; and to assuage human suffering wherever we may find it, stirs to life the noblest impulses of the soul. But there is a nobler and higher aspect of our profession than even this, which lies in the power and duty of the medical man—to educate the people how to prevent disease. The world, with all its boasted culture and improvement, is not perfect yet. And is it not strange that to-day we do not understand nor practice sanitary science and practical hygiene as well as did the ancient Romans and Greeks; and in our chase after phantoms which too often renovate we have neglected the cultivation of that, independent of which we cannot be a great and happy people. The masses are not alive to the mighty preventatives, to discover which they have in the