

In these desultory sentences there have doubtless been pronounced numerous platitudes. The apology therefor is that the purport of this paper was to recall such fundamental teachings as each one of us should have imbibed from our Alma Mater before we were weaned, and which are so often forgotten, to the detriment of the insane.

It were more fitting, perhaps, in this jubilee year of the inauguration of asylums in Canada, that this Association should have been occupied with a retrospect of the semi-centennial period, a subject, however, within the province of the Nestor of the Dominion alienists, the oldest of McGill's living graduates, who still enjoys life in that city where he wrought so many reforms, whose benefits we are reaping.

Suffice it for me if from this reading there has dropped a hint that will revive any enthusiasm in those whose care has been styled the most noble branch of medicine. Suffice it if one word has been spoken that will lead to the better treatment and earlier restoration of some mind afflicted with the most distressing of ailments ere it must be said—

“It is too late : the life of all his blood
Is touched corruptibly, and his pure brain
Doth, by the idle comments that it makes,
Foretell the ending of mortality.”