

recognized as having attained, with the various achievements of science, a remarkable degree of accuracy.

The position of the scientific expert is one of great importance. His deductions are based on a SOUND KNOWLEDGE of human structure; of the laws which regulate the organic functions; of the chemical laboratory in the system, possessing an action and reaction peculiarly its own; and of the disturbing forces, which induce death, under extraordinary circumstances. The courts of law at home and abroad consider such testimony of great value, and upon it frequently hinge matters of life or death. In carrying out such investigations both a thoroughly scientific knowledge and a perfectly disinterested mind are necessary. The great aim and object in view is to bring to the surface the principles of truth and honour, no matter how trying the attendant circumstances. Medical men should bear in remembrance the responsible and dignified position they are called upon to fill in medical enquiry. It is not upholding the status of our profession to find its members become partisans in courts of law. Cases of malpractice are not fortunately of frequent occurrence and when such do arise the professional man should never be found occupying an unenviable position, as the instigator of enquiry for purely selfish and personal motives. The whole profession suffers by disregard to ordinary professional courtesies. In courts of law our opinions wield a recognized power and influence, and it is gratifying to observe that in the various medical schools, the subject of medical jurisprudence is receiving well deserved consideration. Through the various medical Societies any professional irregularities in the law courts should be reported and, by this Association a power exercised, that would be productive of the most beneficial results. Regularities as well as irregularities should be noted by those interested in the welfare of the medical profession. In Canada we are yearly enlarging and increasing our medical periodicals, which give evidence of improvement by the abundance, variety and general excellence of the various contributions and selections. How is our Canadian Medical literature to be supported? This is a question which must strike forcibly the most ordinary observer. In the larger cities as well as the rural districts there are those who from their position, experience and knowledge of matters medical, could do much towards building up in this country such an expression of opinion as would tend materially to strengthen and consolidate the very best interests of our profession. It is generally acknowledged that there are more medical

journals than receive remunerative support, and that much labour, zeal and self-sacrifice are necessary on the part of both editors and publishers in order to promote the vitality of this form of medical literature. Such efforts are worthy of the highest commendation, for by means of local medical journals, many facts are brought to light, which otherwise might have passed, unrecorded. In Canada, as in Great Britain, hospital reports are yearly acquiring a greater degree of importance, and our medical students are being stimulated thus towards the cultivation of one of the most necessary branches of study, viz., to observe rightly and report intelligently. The country as well as the city practitioner should contribute regularly to our journals. The city with its extensive hospitals, large libraries, well-organized medical societies, has very great advantages; and yet it has been remarked by an able writer in favour of the country medical man, that "*original thought is usually best cultivated in comparative solitude.*" A high degree of excellence in medical journalism can scarcely be expected in so new a field of enquiry, and considering the efforts put forth to fan into vitality such able journals as the *London Lancet* and *London Medical Times and Gazette*, *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, and others of like celebrity, we should not be discouraged. In the recording of medical facts, it is prudent and right that such should be communicated plainly, avoiding, as far as possible, newly-coined words and abstruse phraseology, which in no way whatever will be acceptable to the plain, *common sense* practitioner. It is common sense which is most required at the sick bedside; it is this sense after all which achieves the greatest degree of success, educated, enlightened, and elaborated through the various scientific achievements and astounding discoveries, of this age of progress. Every physician in regular practice in city and country should not only take one or more medical Journals, but contribute as well. A large and lucrative practice, a high and influential position, are not alone sufficient to perpetuate a worthy name and reputation. These are perishable and will die out, when well-timed and well recorded facts, will last and establish true and genuine worth. ZIMMERMAN remarked "*that the greatest medical writers of any age were the best physicians.*" Those who communicate their views should rather be encouraged than decried. It is quite unnecessary to urge upon those who read the best medical journals, the importance of such publications. It is high time that those who fancy they can learn nothing from medical journals, should retire and leave the field to those more willing in every respect to