

CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

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Original Communications.

SOME MEDICAL FALLACIES.

Read before the Young Men's Christian Association of Green Bay, Wisconsin, U. S.,
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The Y.M.C.A. is a semi-religious body formed for the double purpose of receiving good itself and of imparting it to others. It belongs to the broader Christianity of the present day, in that it is non-sectarian. It might be likened to the farmer in the religious field, who believes in diversified agriculture as opposed to the one who is a specialist in some particular line. It caters to man's spiritual welfare, while at the same time it is not neglectful of his material comforts and wants.

In what I say this evening, I shall pay particular attention to the latter phase of its vocation, and at the same time shall claim the prerogative of him who caters to the former, in that I ask your indulgence so far as to be allowed to wander from the subject of my discourse, imitating, in so doing, many of the popular divines, as you will bear witness.

To deliver a popular address, it is necessary that the speaker should be satisfied with his effort. He should feel that he has handled his subject in a masterly manner, and that he has correspondingly impressed his hearers. I doubt if Webster could have delivered his address with such profound effect, had he not felt that he was the master of Hayne, not only on the question at issue, but also in his own personality. Knowing his subject was no more essential than knowing his antagonist and his audience.

In the present instance, a technical knowledge of medicine is not an advantage in the strictest sense, for the speaker must be able to so handle his subject as to make it intelligible to an audience, which, however intellectual, is nevertheless not in possession of a technical knowledge of medicine.