

We gazed upon our graduating classes from year to year expecting to see considerable and somewhat rapid swelling. We had proved by some very logical reasoning that such results must necessarily follow.

Strange to say, while we gazed our eyes were somewhat saddened by the fact that our graduating lists were growing smaller and beautifully less from year to year. In the spring of 1887 we find that the numbers of medical graduates of the larger universities of Canada were as follows: Trinity College, 52; McGill, 43; Victoria, from Ontario, 35; Queen's, 28; Toronto, 25. As I have before indicated, we had logically and mathematically proved the impossibility of the existence of such a condition of things. We were somewhat in the position of a certain Dr. Tomès, a worthy worshipper of Hippocrates and Galen, who lived in the 17th century. On a certain occasion a wordy battle ensued between the doctor and a maidservant as to whether a coachman whom the doctor attended a few days before was alive or dead. Dr. Tomès finally closed the discussion as far as he was concerned by stating positively and with great solemnity: "It is impossible; Hippocrates says that these diseases end only on the fourteenth and twenty-first days, and he has only been ill six days." The maid, who was left alone by the positive doctor, cried out in despair: "Hippocrates may say what he likes, but the coachman is dead all the same." So likewise we who had lived in the clouds, wrapped in the folds of our beautiful theories and our logical syllogisms, began to think that we had better come down to the earth and recognize facts like ordinary mortals.

As we awoke and threw off our lethargy, we saw, to our surprise, that the great universities of other countries, such as Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and many others, indulged in no such absurd views about their proper functions. These grand institutions had found that their highest aim and their noblest duty was to teach; and, in teaching, they thought it not unbecoming to include medicine among the subjects taught. I need not now detain you by referring in detail to the great work which has been accomplished by the medical faculties of these various universities, and the great lustre that has been added to them

in consequence of such work. When we decided to take advantage of the provisions of the University Federation Act, it took but a short time to complete the organization of a teaching Faculty of Medicine in this University.

I desire at this time, on behalf of our teaching staff, to give some expression to the feelings of gratitude which we entertain towards the many in university circles who have always shown us so much kindness and sympathy, and at the same time have given us such substantial assistance from the date of our organization until the present time. Where kindness has been so general it is difficult to particularize, but I cannot refrain from making a few special references. First of all, I wish to speak of the kind and intelligent consideration we have ever received from the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, and the other members of the Senate. Their cordial support and generous approval of our work have given us greater satisfaction and more encouragement than any words of mine can tell.

In making some reference to our relations with the distinguished President of the University, I feel that I am utterly unable to give expression to my appreciation of his unfailing kindness and courtesy towards us on all occasions. It is one of the most pleasant features of the new condition of things that we have to acknowledge him as our head, although we have to regret that our existence adds so largely to his responsibilities, which before were sufficiently heavy. We were all gratified to learn of the honor done him by his native city, Edinburgh, where the citizens recently met to confer on him the greatest distinction in their power—the freedom of the city—an honor reserved for those renowned in politics or highly distinguished in letters. Among the members of the professorial staff, to whom we are deeply indebted are Professors Loudon, Ramsay Wright, and Ellis, who have ever shown a willingness and even a strong desire to assist our Faculty in every possible way.

I have good reasons to think that I fully represent the feelings of our teaching staff when I say that we highly appreciate the substantial assistance we have received from the other faculties of the University and the affiliated institutions. At the same time, we have a due sense of the responsibility we assume when we under-