

joicing. But, if the habit of diagnosing has given me any certainty, I feel sure, after casting my eyes about me, that I am not mistaken in predicting that there will be many others to imitate us.

"We appreciate very highly the delicacy of your proceedings and your efforts to procure for us a moment of happiness; you wished to make us forget the worries and cares of life; have you attained your object? You would have attained it perfectly, I might say, you would have succeeded in bestowing upon us more than the mere illusion of happiness; yes, you would have rendered us perfectly happy if, by a good nature beyond measure, you had undertaken to prepare for us the speeches that we were to make to-night. In this, however, I am only speaking for myself; for what would have been kindness to me would have been cruelty to others, to deprive them of the pleasure of charming us by their eloquence. But, though I would have preferred to have spoken through you and would have heartily thanked you, still, since you wish it, I will sacrifice myself and conform to the established practice. I had, for the occasion, prepared two pieces of eloquence: one very long and the other very short; in the first I would have interested you in giving an account of the changes and the progress of medical science which have taken place in Montreal during fifty years; in describing the modest beginning of our first medical school, its struggles and the obstacles which it had to vanquish before it became the Faculty of Medicine of Laval University; or in describing the student life of those days, so different from that of the present time. But at a banquet of this kind should we not have a pleasant time? My long and accurate discourse would have tired you, if it did not, indeed, send you to sleep; so I suppressed it. As for the other and shorter one, I suppressed it too, and I am glad to see what pleasure this announcement seems to give you. You feel relieved to hear that those two speeches have been suppressed, but believe me, you are not more relieved than I am.