

the profession from such lectures would be important, but of even more importance would be the encouragement afforded to the more gifted and aspiring of our own Canadian physicians and surgeons. As Canadians we may feel proud of our country and of its physical and political excellencies, but we may rest assured that, so far as we medical men are concerned, others will estimate us by the reasonable and practical standard of our contributions to medical knowledge and by our scientific attainments. No conservative clinging to obsolete methods on the one hand, or the multiplication of weak meretricious literature on the other, can impose upon the learned in the professional world, and the sooner we create strong incentives to scientific work the sooner will the workers be forthcoming. I would here offer the suggestion that this Association take into consideration the establishment of lectureships similar to those in England and other older countries.

Of all means enumerated for the advancement of medical science, individual effort undoubtedly ranks first. Associations can teach and stimulate, but they can never supply the place of study and observation. Truth only yields her wealth to him who lays siege to her shrine. Emerson says the hardest task in the world is to think. We try to look in the face an abstract truth, and we cannot do it. The mind swerves from the encounter, and thick darkness prevails. We return to the charge and try to force Truth from her citadel, and then in a moment, when we least expect it, a rift in the cloud comes, a ray penetrates our minds, light floods in more and more, until objects, dim at first from sudden light in dark places, become real shapes, and we gauge their dimensions and estimate their proportions with unerring exactitude. Few truths are discovered but by this laborious process, and because we evolve them slowly and often only partially by delving beneath the surface of things, it is better to labor so than not to work at all, for when the surface is broken and disturbed, others will see clearly what we only half perceive, others will perfect what we are able only to dimly outline.

It requires no prophetic eye to perceive the future greatness of Canada. Her vast extent, and varied and inexhaustible natural resources, everywhere abounding, are such that it would seem impossible for any series of unfortunate events to stem her progress, or to divert her course in the contest of nations for pre-eminence in all that constitutes true greatness. The spirit of progress is abroad and armed with the all-compelling weapons of modern invention, hampered by no medieval absurdities, and thwarted by no ignorant prejudices ;

we are justified in entertaining the most exalted and hopeful view of the future of our country, and may deem ourselves fortunate in bearing a part in the development of so fair a heritage. As physicians, the part we assume is not an insignificant one. To enact wise laws, to encourage commerce, to preserve peace within our borders, and to command the respect of neighboring nations are objects worthy of the most exalted ambition and the most patriotic determination; but will it be said that the aims of medical science are less exalted or less conducive to national prosperity or individual happiness? To cure disease, to alleviate suffering, to extend the limit of human life, to enlarge the field of human usefulness, to be able to prevent disease by removing the cause; surely the profession that devotes its energies to the accomplishment of these objects is entitled to the fostering care of governments and to the liberality of wealthy citizens.

"A sound nation is a nation that is composed of sound human beings, healthy in body, strong of limb, true in word and deed, brave, temperate, sober, chaste; to whom morals are of more importance than wealth. It is to form character of this kind that human beings are sent into this world, and those nations who succeed in doing it are those who have made their mark in history. They are nature's real freemen and give to man's existence on this planet its real interest and value." (*Froude*.) In the not-distant future this Dominion will be the home of fifty millions of people with all the wealth and all the greatness that implies; a thought that may well inspire us with feelings of pride and satisfaction; but the wise man will not be so much impressed by the vastness of our territory, the multitude of our people, or the size and wealth of our cities, but will be more concerned in the problem of the social advancement, the civil liberty, the physical perfection, the scientific status and the moral rectitude of our teeming population. When that time comes may the science of medicine have contributed its share towards the creation of a people unsurpassed for physical perfection and mental sprightliness and for all those virtues that are born of these. Should these hopes be realized, then indeed would happiness prevail and prosperity sit as a ruling genius on the brow of every hill, the bosom of every lake and the bank of every stream; and the application to our country of the language of one of England's greatest poets would scarcely be considered hyperbolic, when he says:

"All crimes shall cease and ancient fraud shall fall,
Returning justice lift aloft her scale,
Peace o'er the world her olive wand extend,
And white-robed innocence from heaven descend."