

interested in physiology, and spent most of my time in the biological laboratory, but I was enough associated with other departments to learn their method of working. The buildings are decidedly modest, of plain brick, and rivalled by many private houses in the vicinity; and all within goes on so quietly one might pass again and again and be unaware that the buildings were tenanted at all. But within these imposing structures there is *thirty-six thousand dollars worth* of apparatus devoted to scientific investigation! There are three laboratories, one for each of the departments of biology, chemistry and physics; and it is contemplated to add to these others, or substitute for them larger ones, shortly, as the present ones are beginning to be felt inadequate. Lectures, recitations, written examinations, and laboratory work, are the chief methods employed in teaching science. Perhaps illustrations of these methods, drawn from the Biological Department, may prove most interesting to you, gentlemen, as having such a close bearing on the scientific side of our profession. There are four teachers connected with this part of the Institution—viz., one for General Biology, one for Zoology, and two in connection with Physiology. These gentlemen have all distinguished themselves by successful original research; some of them, if not all, have made for themselves a Transatlantic reputation. The head of this department is Prof. Henry Newell Martin, hitherto best known in Canada, perhaps, by his association with Prof. Huxley in the authorship of a much-esteemed work on Biology. Dr. Martin was induced to leave an honourable position at Cambridge, England, in order to lead the as yet small band of physiologists in the New World. Though but a young man, his past career has been a very brilliant one, and during the preceding year he has

accomplished a feat which had up till then baffled all the attempts of physiologists. I refer to his *isolation of the mammalian heart*, and keeping it alive and in action for hours—an achievement which promises to be extremely fruitful of results, and which may possibly lead to many changes in the views now prevalent in the physiology of the circulation. But one thing it certainly will bring, and that is, fame for the young physiologist whom Americans may now claim as theirs. I found the students, one and all, rallying around Prof. Martin with an enthusiasm that was delightfully infectious; nor do I wonder—learning, ability, energy, enthusiasm, combined with great kindness of heart and a manner in the utmost degree simple and unassuming, must compel admiration—even affection. It is not in human nature to resist it. Dr. Sewell, the Assistant Professor, brings an extraordinary amount of energy and executive ability to bear on his subject. He is giving this year a course of lectures on General Physiology and Histology, while Prof. Martin devotes his lectures this session to the Circulation. Both these gentlemen, as well as Prof. Brooks and Dr. Sedgwick, of this department, adopt the conversational or quiet style of lecturing. It has many advantages, and this one, especially, as it seems to me, that the discreet teacher can, if he finds, by watching the countenances of his auditors, that he is not being easily comprehended, modify his matter or manner without in any way marring the general harmony or symmetry of his lecture. I attended a lecture on Human Osteology (part of a course on General Osteology), by Prof. Brooks, and noted that, in referring to certain workings on the bones, he simply stated that they were “for the attachment of muscles,” but did not name the latter. Dr. Sedgwick, a model of industry for his students to copy, takes them immedi-