

Editorials.

Medicine as a Profession.

WHEN youth is upon us and enthusiasm runs high, many a young man betakes himself to the medical colleges. But the choice is not one of ease or roses.

In the first place there is much hard and unpleasant work to be done before the portals of the profession are safely crossed. By the way, many fall out discouraged either by the severity of the trial or from the want of funds, or through failure of health. Some enter upon the study of medicine who have no adaptability for such a calling, and must, as a consequence, sooner or later fall by the examiner's hands.

A few, but very few, who have no marked ability, and who therefore struggle through the various examination ordeals in a most laborious and uncertain manner, make fair doctors. The rule, however, is that a student who either from lack of ability or application makes a poor showing at college makes a poor showing in after life.

Then, on the other hand, there are those who are brilliant as students, but who for some lack of tact never do well in practice. They may have large funds of book and hospital learning; but they know not human nature. They are totally devoid of those finer qualities that enable them to enter fully into the conditions of their patients. There is no rapport between them and those under their care. The want of these nice instincts causes many a learned doctor to fail utterly in practice.

But grant that he passes the ordeal of the examinations, that his health continues good, that his money holds out and he has the needed graces of head and heart to make him a really successful and popular doctor, what prize is there for him to win? No very great one we confess. He can make a living, but he cannot make wealth. His life, too, will be one of many constraints. His journeys from home will be few and far between.

From Germany, France, South Africa, Australia, Britain, the States, comes the news that the medical profession is fearfully overcrowded. Fancy Chicago, with 777 professors or lecturers on medical subjects. Our own knowledge of Canada enables us to state that there is as great a degree of overcrowding here as elsewhere. What the eight