

In no profession, perhaps, is this sense of *camaraderie* so strong as it is in that of medicine, no class of students are so true to each other and to their Alma Mater as medical students, and of no other profession are the members so ready and glad to offer each other assistance, when called upon, as those of the profession to which you aspire. I refer to this, Gentlemen, not in any spirit of self glorification, but that I may the more thoroughly impress upon you the fact that your professors are your best friends, and assure you that if you come to them in time of doubt or trouble, the best fruits of their experience and knowledge will be freely and gladly given to you.

I have to congratulate you, Gentlemen of the first year, on entering McGill University at a period in her history marked by such prosperity as the present. It has been her province in the past to set a high standard in the practical and vital branch of education controlled by this Faculty. This duty has been done in the face of grave doubts and difficulties, and this duty our Faculty is now doing, not without the expenditure of much thought and labour, but thanks to our generous friends, without running that risk of financial failure which deters so many schools from adopting the most advanced methods of teaching, and fixing a high standard for their degree.

To a certain extent the laws of supply and demand apply to medical schools as well as to the price of wheat, and there is a perfectly natural tendency in many men towards a school which will give them a diploma for the least expenditure of time, money, and energy. Many schools have come into existence to meet this demand for a short cut to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. So detrimental to the best interests of the community has this undignified competition for students become in the United States, that it was seriously suggested in a recent report by a Commission of Education that every medical school in the country be required by law to provide forthwith an endowment of not less than three hundred thousand dollars. As Oliver Wendell Holmes wittily remarks: "A school which depends for its existence on the number of its students cannot be expected to commit suicide in order to satisfy an ideal demand for perfection."