

in so long a time, and then, wearied with this mere mechanical act, have spent our night trying to decipher what we had written, (at last having given it up in despair and disgust) we have come to doubt that we were living in the enlightenment of the nineteenth century, but to think that we were groping in the darkness of the middle ages, long before the printing press had been invented. If our notes are to be the main source of our knowledge why impose upon us poor unoffending wretches such terrible drudgery, and why rob the professor of his time to instruct and explain. Why! and echo, with a bitter mocking voice, sends back the answer, why! why!! We do not hesitate to venture the assertion that one-half of the labor spent by the student in medicine in McGill is worse than wasted in unnecessary note-taking; and if that in our case had been spent in study upon the clearly printed page, and the professors had spent time in demonstration and examination, what prodigies we new-pledged doctors of to-day would be. Gentlemen, in the interest of our Alma Mater, which we wish well from the depths of our inmost soul, and against which we would shun to say a word which would detract from her usefulness or infringe upon her dignity, we wish you this much needed reform.

To our professors, who, during our course, often at the expense of health and the duties of their profession, have devoted themselves to the task of instructing us in the profession we have chosen, we return our sincere thanks. We shall not detain you with the usual enumeration of your many virtues which falls to the lot of the valedictorian, but shall say that you have ample reward in the knowledge of a noble work well done. Your influence has not been confined to the round of your daily cares, but has been, and shall be felt in thousands of homes throughout the Dominion, and throughout the world; and you must have the highest sense of happiness in knowing that you have exerted this mighty influence for the best, and we have only to lament that we are not better exponents of your teaching. We may be pardoned here if we seek a personal digression. There are departments in McGill which, under the able administration of those who have them in charge, have been brought, within the last few years, almost to perfection. The professors