

success may be in their business or professional careers.

The graduating class which I address to-day is unique in this collegiate centre, inasmuch that for the first time in the history of this college a lady member graces its roll. In view of the fact that women have in late years proved their ability to occupy positions successfully in nearly every field of labor, where hitherto men had a monopoly, and accomplish results, whether in mercantile life, literature, art, or on the platform, equal to any proceeding from male intellects; it was not to be surprised that being more especially adapted to the work of the physician and naturally endowed with the elements of character essential to his success, they would ere long seek admission to the halls of medicine, but few portals, however, opened to their rings for admission; special institutions accordingly were established in different centres; and throughout the neighbouring Republic, as well as in the Dominion, as a result, lady practitioners have demonstrated their ability to cope successfully with the demands made upon them in several important departments of medicine.

This Faculty at the earnest solicitation of a number of ladies, decided about a year ago to test co-education in medicine, and some half a dozen ladies were enrolled on the register. The difficulties which were supposed to be inseparable in mixed classes have in the light of this session's experience, proved themselves to be phantoms, conjured in the undeveloped minds of those pessimists whose want of faith in the innate and growing tendency to uprightness in humanity—which we believe to be a law of evolution on this plane just as unceasing, progression characterizes all living processes in other planes—tends to retard rather than hasten the coming of that millennial period for which all the moral forces in the world and in higher spheres are laboring; when even the thought of evil will have no abiding place. In a word, the utmost harmony has prevailed in these mixed

classes, the presence of the ladies has caused no confusion or disconcerting dilemmas, and has not in the least interfered with the manifestation of the natural buoyancy and exuberance of spirits supposed to be characteristic of the medical student, and in no instance has any but the most gentlemanly conduct been displayed towards them by their fellow-students, and the zeal displayed by the ladies in their studies has had its influence in stimulating to greater efforts the other members of the classes, who, from previous reputation were led to regard them as no mean rivals for the position of honor. The results of this session which show that our first lady graduate, Miss Grace Ritchie, has passed a brilliant examination, taking the second highest marks is another instance in proof of the claim, questioned by some, that women are as qualified mentally as men, for the highest class of intellectual pursuits.

It is to be regretted that owing to a technicality requiring at least two sessions attendance in order to compete, she cannot receive the Chancellor's prize to which she is entitled by merit, but we know she will gracefully bow to the unfortunate prescription which render it impossible for her to receive the tangible token of the proud position, which she has honorably won.

That the Medical Faculty of Bishop's College acted in keeping with the times, in responding to this demand from the ladies, few thoughtful people will deny. Co-education in all departments of medical study is now carried on in Paris, Geneva, Zurich, Berne and Basle and in the Universities of Belgium, Spain and Italy, here they work together side by side with only good results and many are even elected as internes in the hospitals, and we learn from a recent letter of Dr. Osler, physician-in-chief of Johns Hopkins Hospital, that their Medical School which will aspire to take the lead on this continent, will admit women on the same terms as men. Cardinal Gibbons says that co-education of the male