

poems, *Underwoods*. "There are men and classes of men that stand above the common herd: the soldier, the sailor and the shepherd not unfrequently; the artist rarely; rarer still, the clergyman; the physician almost as a rule. He is the flower (such as it is) of our civilization; and when that stage of man is done with, and only to be marvelled at in history; he will be thought to have shared as little as any in the defects of the period, and most notably exhibited the virtues of the race. Generosity he has, such as is possible to those who practise an art, never to those who drive a trade; discretion, tested by a hundred secrets; tact, tried in a thousand embarrassments; and what are more important, Heraclean cheerfulness and courage. So that he brings air and cheer into the sick room, and often enough, though not so often as he wishes, brings healing."

A chronic invalid, Mr. Stevenson sets forth in this way his gratitude to the many doctors in many lands who have helped him in a long struggle against an hereditary foe. In poem xxiv, *Not yet my soul these friendly fields desert*, he has beautifully expressed the spirit in which he has fought and worked:

For thy life,  
Up, spirit, and defend that fort of clay,  
Thy body, now beleaguered; whether soon  
Or late she fall; whether to-day thy friends  
Bewail thee dead, or, after years, a man  
Grown old in honor and the friend of peace.  
Contend, my soul, for moments and for hours;  
Each is with service pregnant; each reclaimed  
Is as a kingdom conquered, where to reign.

WILLIAM OSLER.

### Medical Items.

—Advices from London bring intelligence that Messrs. Fairchild Bros. & Foster of New York have been awarded the gold medal at the American Exhibition held in the former city, for their Digestive Ferments, Extractum Pancreatis, Peptonizing Powders, and Pepsine in Scales.

—*Medical Science* is the name of a new monthly journal published in Toronto, the first number of which has made its appearance. It has a learned quartet for editors. This makes the eighth medical journal published in Canada. If the latest of these can supply the practitioners of this country with original pabulum of a higher order than they have been getting in the past, then there is reason for the country to be congratulated.

ERRATA.—On page 242 (November number), fifth line of the third paragraph, for "periosteum," read "peritoneum."