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Introductory Lecture, delivered at the opening of the Medical Department of the University of McGill College, November 7th, 1865. By R. PALMER HOWARD, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

(Abridged from the author's notes, by FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.D.)

GENTLEMEN,—It has long been the custom at this School for each Professor to introduce to the notice of the Students in a formal introductory, the department of Medical Science which it is his immediate duty to teach and illustrate. It becomes really a difficult matter to find new subjects every year suitable for these introductions, and I shall not make the attempt, but rely upon the generous consideration of the older members of the classes, while I address a few observations to those who begin their professional studies this session. But before beginning those observations, permit me to bid you all, old and new students, welcome to this School. Two subjects have suggested themselves as capable of furnishing topics of profitable consideration on this occasion: 1st. The qualifications of primary importance to the Medical Student of the present day; 2nd. Some suggestions or rules for his guidance during his pupilage. Certainly amongst the most important qualifications of any student of the liberal professions must be ranked a good preliminary general education. The special advantages of such an education to the divine or the advocate may not be exactly those illustrative of its value to the physician, but they are in the main the same; the training of the mental faculties so that they may be promptly and vigorously applied to the acquisition of knowledge, the discovery of principles and laws, and the discrimination between truth and error. The study of Greek or Latin, French or German is useful not alone nor chiefly as conferring upon the student an additional channel through which to acquire information, but as a means of strengthening the memory