

that difficulty. Neither have I any sympathy for those who shrink from the persistent application demanded, especially from those inadequately prepared; but I have a great sympathy with those who may be somewhat advanced in years, and who desire to give themselves to the Master's service, yet whose previous training unfits them for such a severe course. For these, and for these only, I would like to see the minimum of literary qualification retained.

Our Church, while fixing a minimum, fixes no maximum. It is true that our Alma Mater offers no incentive to foreign study, in the shape of bursaries, as many other colleges do, but she does recognize the value of post-graduate study, as is evident by the establishment of the course for B.D.

It may be urged, in support of an additional year, that the students of other professions, especially medicine, in order to qualify themselves better for their duties, frequently take a course of two or three sessions in London, Edinburgh or Paris, after graduating in one of our Canadian colleges. It is not certain that this course on their part arises from an enhanced conception of the duties of their profession. It may arise, in part, from its overcrowded state, and the consequently keener struggle arising therefrom in establishing a practice. A European degree, and the more extended knowledge of the practice of medicine which it implies, materially assist toward this.

In our profession the demand greatly exceeds the supply, at present. Our earnest promoters of missions are crying vehemently for more men, and our worthy superintendent of missions in the North-West, sick in soul at the tardy response of our college graduates to his earnest importunities, in one of his later utterances, indicates a possible divergence from the apostolic injunction, "Lay hands suddenly on no man."

Our graduates, therefore, who take an additional year do so without any direct encouragement from our Alma Mater, and in face of the importunate demands not only from our mission fields but from our ever increasing vacancies. I am persuaded, however, that those who can afford it and are inclined thereto, are doing the Church as great a service as if they labored on her mission fields, and are receiving a benefit in themselves which more than repays any outlay. Anything that improves the man improves the minister; so if it can be shown that certain advantages accrue to the student himself, it will also be shown that they accrue to the Church. The young men looking forward to the ministry will be placed under different conditions of service than their predecessors were.

During the ministry of our fathers in the Church the country has been in a state of transition in which it was next to impossible to stagnate. They saw the forest give place to the farmstead, the old blaze and corduroy, to macadam, gravel or the Iron Horse, and wigwags of the Indians to our villages, towns, and cities. Correspondingly they saw their congregations grow from the score in the log-shanty or barn, to the hundreds and thousands of their present pastorates. Stimulated by such expansion which urged every activity to quicker speed, they speedily rose to positions of power and influence, and those whom God has spared are now reaping the fruits of their abundant labors. In Ontario and the Eastern Provinces, the future pastors will not have this rapid advance to spur them on. Our congregations will exist under similar conditions to those in the old lands, and if they follow directly in their wake, as they probably will, we may expect to see the congregations in our larger cities increase, while the towns and villages will remain stationary or decrease.