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OPENING LECTURE OF THE FIFTH
SESSION OF THE RESTORED
MEDICAL FACULTY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO.

BY ADAM H. WRIGHT, B.A., M.D.

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

We are now entering upon the fifth session since the re-establishment of our Medical Faculty, and it becomes my pleasing duty, on behalf of our staff, to extend a hearty greeting and a cordial welcome to our students. We are glad to see the faces of those who have been with us in former years, and yet are well-pleased to see faces that are new and strange. Instead of new and strange, I might use a word that usage has made more suitable in this connection—fresh. The freshmen, frequently designated the "freshy" by the senior, is ever an object of interest in all well-regulated colleges. To the sophomore especially appears to be relegated the duty of looking after him and watching for the first appearances of that supposed essential characteristic in him, which was called by the poets in ages past—"cheek." The sophomore before referred to is generally disappointed if he sees no sign of this important commodity, which it would be his pleasing duty to promptly extinguish. I may say that the freshmen class is apt to be carefully scrutinized by teachers as well as students. When small, it creates a feeling of

sadness; when large and good-looking, as in the present instance, it makes every one look pleasant and happy.

It is not long since I heard a friend of the University state that the two most important events in the recent history of the University of Toronto were federation and the re-establishment of the Medical Faculty. I was much impressed with that statement, and am firmly convinced that it is correct. Professor Ramsay Wright, in his opening lecture four years ago, gave us many interesting facts about the formation of universities in mediæval times. He told us that the prime function of the university in those days was teaching by accomplished masters. In more modern times opinions on this point differed, and many thought that the main duty of a university, especially in relation to the professions, was to conduct examinations and grant degrees. The friends of this University were for a time largely possessed with this idea. It was thought that it would be well to make a high standard, frame a curriculum in accordance therewith, and encourage all the medical colleges in the province to enter into affiliation with this institution. These apparently broad views contained many features that were very good, especially on paper, and for many years those who had demonstrated the correctness of such opinions with almost mathematical precision waited for the appearance of the crowning glories of the wondrous scheme. Our doors were opened wide for the entrance of both friends and enemies to our council chambers.