

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW:

In reply to the criticism which appeared in last issue of the REVIEW on the subject of the "Doctorate," we submit the following, with the hope that it will encourage the publication of views of medical men on the subject, for I am a firm believer in the fact that my professional confreres agree with me in statements now and heretofore made on the subject herein named.

ARISTARCHUS.

August 2nd, 1898.

The Doctorate! is it worth preserving?

Yes! if it is to be the highest distinction given by our universities to those of the learned professions (Divinity, Law and Medicine) and to those who have reached eminence in Philosophy.

No! If it is to be the gift of universities to those who are not of the above-named professions. To those whose callings are not designated as learned, simply mechanical, whose education publicly is considered of low grade, meretricious, gold-filled.

'Tis not the wondrous deeds of time
My muse would sing, in humble rhyme,
To claim your admiration;
But of the wrongs and dire abuses,
Of various academic uses
I seek your condemnation.

Time was when College "parchment scroll"
Meant *years* of pressing to the goal
Of higher education;
A mind well-stored with learned lore,
With stronger grasp, and greater power,
To fill life's proper station.

But now, alas, the times are changed,
And "Varsities" have now arranged
That each ambitious mortal
May *buy* degrees, and honors win,
Though he has never passed within
An academic portal.

The country's filled with "patentees"
Who duly issue cheap degrees
From State-endowed College,
To all who titles love to wear
And prove their fitness by their "fare,"
Regardless of their knowledge.