

refines and cultivates. We belong to private life, and should shine there, by the graces of polite learning and good scholarship; thus can you, if ever, have a profession to be proud of. To those who pooh-pooh this preliminary education, who affect to sneer at a stringent examination, I will read *in terrorem* an extract from the proceedings of the last meeting of the Medical Association of the great State of New York. I may say they are struggling for amendment in this respect. They bewail their position, they are fighting hard for higher standards, and sigh for the state of affairs we have in Ontario, which they appear to look on as the desired condition.

#### THE NECESSITY OF A HIGH STANDARD.

I, therefore, to show the necessity of a high standard, quote Dr. Sturgess, who in turn gives a selection from Prof. Elliott, the learned principal of Harvard University. In his report of 79-80, says Principal Elliott: "An American physician or surgeon may be, and often is, a coarse and uncultivated person, devoid of intellectual interest outside of his calling, and quite unable to speak or to write his mother tongue with accuracy. What wonder if, under the circumstances, the degree of Dr. of Medicine has not heretofore been accepted as a passport to refined society. It is notorious that as a rule medical students have been a rougher class of young men than other professional students of a similar age. In this university until the reformation of the school in 1870-71, the students were noticeably inferior in bearing, learning, manners, and discipline to the students of other departments. They are now indistinguishable." And a respectable New York daily, quoted by Dr. Sturges, says: "To say that medical students are rough but faintly expresses the facts, for they are also ignorant, often grossly immoral, exclusive of the bogus institutions like the late college in Philadelphia. The only requisites for the degree of M.D. in many of our colleges are sufficient money to pay the fees and a tolerably good memory. Even the latter is of secondary importance and without even a common school education they (the doctors) aspire to a social position for which they are totally unfitted by nature or experience." Such gentlemen is the outcome of leaving so much to the student himself—so much to what is called "unbounded opportunities." I believe it to be better not to trust the individual until mankind becomes better, but stick to the

European plan which demands a liberal preliminary education, four years' study (professional), examination for diploma and examination for license.

#### FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

I believe, gentlemen, Canada has also settled the question of female medical education, at least has so treated it as to consider it settled. What bacillus disturbed the hitherto placid flow of the corpuscles in Canadian female vessels I leave to Professor Osler to discover. Its action aroused in our dear sisters that spirit of curiosity to penetrate the arcanae of medical science and demand admittance to the temple. For a short time all went well, nothing could exceed the gallantry of their male fellow students. It was charming to observe the spirit of kindly welcome they were received with. Alas! It was of short duration. A storm arose (and through no fault of the women); all was changed. The male members demanded their exclusion, and they were forced to retire. Public feeling was aroused, generous men came to the rescue, pronounced co-education a failure, and two female colleges fully equipped were founded. Three women graduated from the Kingston School, greatly distinguished themselves in the race for license, asked no favors, and are now practising. Why they did not invade the sister professions of law and theology I do not know; if they can take all the tests required, I see no reason to object; I believe they will be the means of raising, not lowering, the standard. Allow me to call your attention to the important subject of the

#### COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASES.

The American Medical Association at its last meeting warmly endorsed it and voted \$300 to carry it out. It has been attended with the best results in the hands of our great prototype, the British Medical Association. Our country, extending over so large a territory, with such varied racial, climatic and other conditions, ought to be peculiarly favorable for it. An easy subject could be selected, first, one simple, and of general interest, that any general practitioner could manage. Apart from its scientific value, it would be a means of uniting more closely our scattered forces, and be another link binding us more firmly together. I presume it will be considered by a special committee. It was in my opinion a very unfortunate train of circumstances that led to the stoppage of