

*ines deos accedunt, hominibus dando salutem.*

"Men most nearly resemble the gods when they afford health to their fellowmen." They viewed the healing art as a godlike gift for the relief of suffering humanity. Disease, to them, appeared shrouded in mystery, as also the means of affording relief; therefore it was invested with supernatural powers. I may be allowed to ask, what other subject is so abstruse, or so difficult of investigation? Enshrouded in mystery, it is indeed often most difficult to probe the causation of disease to the bottom, and thereby learn the true relationship existing between cause and effect. All honor, then, to those master minds who have striven to elucidate those problems, and have set us in the right direction of thinking and acting in the presence of the destroyer of mankind.

It may take years to establish a science, but when once established, what an impetus it gives, and how it expands our vision and places us on the highway to victory! Great discoveries are only developed and proved at long intervals; they are not the result of accident, but of careful, patient effort. Step by step does the patient toiler arrive at the goal of his ambition. Then the world proclaims him a genius. Genius has been defined as an "infinite capacity for taking pains," with the power for prolonged, close mental exertion, until the subject has been viewed and reviewed in all its bearings, and everything of interest extracted from it. All the great men whom the world has been pleased to place in this rank have been men of education, with trained intellects, who have been taught to observe and reason—Hippocrates, Galen, Avicenna, Harvey, Pasteur, and Koch, were cultured according to the age in which they lived. We are told that force of circumstances would bring men of their ability to the surface, and there is truth in the statement; but nevertheless their training must have pre-eminently qualified them for their work. At the present day this point touches us closely, and I cannot give too much credit to the Ontario Medical Council for the good work it has done towards elevating the standard of medical education in this province. Organized and put into practical operation in 1869, it has been the means of placing medical education upon a permanent basis. Prior to that date,

not only did each university have the power of granting the license to practise along with its degree, but there existed also the Homœopathic and Eclectic Boards, with equal power, each having their own standard. Young men are apt to lose sight of the great essential to success, viz., thoroughness of preparation, and not until too late do they perceive the wrong they have done, not only to themselves, but the public at large. The majority of students are inclined to regard the medical profession as a mercenary calling, by which they expect to earn a genteel livelihood, and consequently every effort is made to get the coveted diploma. This temptation naturally draws them to the college which gives the easiest curriculum. So far as the licensing power is concerned, under our present excellent management, all the teaching bodies stand on the same level, and I am pleased to see that the Council is increasing the efficiency of the curriculum by making four winter and one summer session compulsory. By introducing the summer session many minor points of importance can be gone over, which the heavier course of the winter session precludes. The standard of matriculation has also been raised, and as a university course in Arts is most desirable, we think the step should be strenuously advocated until the Council sees its way to make it obligatory.

Our various colleges and universities are becoming alive to the necessities of the day, and in consequence we find more attention being paid to the practical part of the physician's training, such as clinical teaching, the use of different instruments of precision, physiological experiments, etc.

Post-graduate courses should be instituted, where medical men, wearied with overwork, can repair for a short season and refresh themselves both mentally and physically.

The idea, no doubt derived from mediæval times, that it is an act of desecration to dissect a body, still holds sway; for in every community officious people are found who consider it a duty to claim and inter bodies which should be used on the dissecting-table. These subjects were housed and cared for by the civic authorities while living, and now when dead their bodies should furnish material for aiding scientific instruction. Were the law made more ex-