

colleagues, ripened in years and wisdom, to enforce its solemn simplicity upon a chosen few of you at the end of this session.

It is of the first of these responsibilities that I wish to speak. You are beginning, or have begun, the study of medicine presumably with the view of eventually practising that profession. For prudential reasons—to take the lowest motive first—it behooves you from the first to make the very best use of your time. Competition—sharp, not to say at times unscrupulous—which has made mercantile pursuits so uncertain, and in many cases but barely remunerative—has of late years rapidly invaded the professional classes, and medicine in this respect has suffered perhaps more than any other profession.

The absence of state-endowed and state-supported institutions, in which a very high standard of education might be maintained irrespective of revenue, the absence or laxity of state regulation, of private educational corporations, the curse of sectionalism and individualism so characteristic of the western hemisphere, and the apathy of the public in the matter of education in general and medical education in particular—all these factors have tended to produce a mushroom-growth of so-called medical schools (fortunately be it said more among our neighbours than in our own country) from which a yearly brood of doctors of medicine has been delivered upon the unsuspecting public. To many people one degree is as good as another, and it will take them some time, to their cost, and perhaps to yours, before they appreciate the difference between a graduate of a reputable school and one of the mushroom variety. Moreover, your training will have taught you to despise methods which your competitor makes no scruple of using—and in this respect you will be at a disadvantage. But granted that in the long run you have little to fear from competition with the ill-trained physician, is it not a fact that even from the best medical schools the supply of graduates is at least equal to the demand? Ponder this well—if there be any of you who may be tempted to think that a degree is to be won by a minimum of work, and that the profession of medicine is an easy and genteel way of earning a living. For such there is no place in a medical school of the highest standing.

But there is a higher motive, which the majority, if not all of you, will recognize and accept. By working to the best of your ability you are in reality aiding, no matter how little, the cause of higher education in medicine. Wherever you go, in whatever place you cast your lot, you will bear the hall-mark of your Alma Mater, and should be the living embodiment to your surroundings of the high professional ideal which this school has ever aimed at maintaining. This