

necessaries of life. Few and far between were the luxuries, as the struggle for existence was keen. The more provident had an eye toward laying up a fund for a time of need. The earlier generations were brought up in the stern lap of necessity. Books were scarce and difficult to obtain. Teachers beyond those having a mere rudimentary education were not easy of access yet, even under these discouraging circumstances we find that there were many men of prominence in our profession, for some are born to be great. As time went on and wealth increased, schools of a more advanced character were established. Our educational system has been founded upon a broad and liberal basis, so that we now boast of one of the most admirable systems of education, from the common schools up to our universities. With our admirable educational facilities which are now within the easy reach of all who are ambitious to excel, what excuse have we for a low standard for our matriculation in medicine?

Our profession has always been regarded as one of the learned professions, whose members are, or should be cultured gentlemen. The Poet Ovid tells us "*Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes emollit mores*" "To have faithfully studied ingenuous arts softens manners." I am well aware that culture does not depend entirely upon mental training. A great deal is due to the innate character of the individual, then the early environment shapes and moulds the mental tendency or temperament, exaggerating or repressing as the case may be.

In no walk of life does the inner life of the individual shine out so brightly, unless it be that of our sister profession, the clergy. In no profession is the highly cultured man more truly honored, neither has any class, of society, more power for good than the cultured and polished physician. Emerson says that "a gentleman is a man of truth, lord of his own actions and expressing that lordship in his behaviour." In no way can this high ideal be so readily and effectually obtained as in the words of Ovid "*To have faithfully studied or cultivated ingenuous arts.*"

Our country, although vast in extent, has not, until lately, attracted the attention of the better class of emigrants and settlers to the extent its importance demanded. Our great agricultural and mineral wealth has only recently been properly and fairly ascertained and placed before the old world. We are now on the eve of a great and continued prosperity.

One of the great essentials to success or prosperity of any kind is, for those concerned to have faith in themselves and their cause, whether it be our country, our profession or a more elevated plane of life in general. A tone of intense optimism prevails, betokening that confidence and faith which ensures our prosperity.