

matics and classical literature, and it is to the want of this preliminary training that we must ascribe the great obstacles which many meet with not only while here engaged in the study of their profession, but also in after life. Such cannot, except with great difficulty, concentrate their thoughts upon any subject so as to master it thoroughly. Such are apt to lay held upon one particular fact, to the exclusion of others equally if not more important. Such are apt to pounce on a mere sequence, feeling assured, and acting on the assurance, that it is an effect of something which occurred or was done previously. Such do not generalize well and cannot see well the bearing of one thing on another. In a comparatively new country like Canada those who commence the study of medicine with a deficient preliminary training are more numerous than in such a country as England, where the state of society is more fixed, where a certain class almost exclusively claims the learned professions as their birthright, and where it is scarcely possible for a mechanic, a ploughman, or a woodchopper, to find admission into any of the learned professions. Many such have come here unable, because of their age or limited means, to enter into the ranks with schoolboys, and obliged either to forego the perhaps long-cherished desire of rising above their fellows or to commence the study of a profession and the training of their minds simultaneously; and mayhap this last not in the most orthodox manner. That is a dangerous experiment and desperate uphill work; the difficulties met with in concentrating the thoughts, grasping the right kind of knowledge, and applying it advantageously, are very great, and often insuperable; but these difficulties have been overcome by determined, resolute men. Such have gone from here and elsewhere—are judicious, intelligent and enlightened practitioners, doing their part nobly in the battle of life, labouring to gain and maintain a respectable position for themselves, and at the same time to benefit their fellow-creatures. The necessity and at the same time dignity of labour cannot be too much kept in view. I do not refer merely to bodily labour. It is a sad spectacle to see a man, especially a young man, with