

## THE INTERNE SERVICE IN MODERN HOSPITALS: A COMPARISON OF THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN SYSTEMS.\*

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In presenting for the consideration of this distinguished gathering, a subject somewhat removed from the ordinary lines of medical discussion, I must confess to having no slight fear that in so doing I am trespassing upon your time. Yet on second thought I cannot but feel that you will agree with me, when I say that the subject I wish to call your attention to to-day is one of vital importance to the welfare of the medical profession, and indeed to the Dominion of Canada. For this very reason, and inasmuch as the comments which may be made are not intended to apply to any one province, I feel that the Canadian Medical Association is the one before which such a subject should be discussed.

We as Canadians have for many years justly prided ourselves upon the excellence of our educational systems, and in medicine particularly we have been proud of the high standard demanded for preliminary medical education. We have rejoiced to hear Sir Dyce Duckworth tell us that the Ontario standard was fully one-third higher than that of Great Britain, and have congratulated ourselves when Dr. Clifford Allbutt, representing the best and highest in the world of medicine, has praised the Medical Faculty of McGill so highly and so publicly. But sir, without these kindly words of praise we should have to be convinced, for by comparison with the requirements of the various English, Continental and American medical institutions, we are warranted in saying that the Dominion of Canada possesses the highest practical qualifications for preliminary education. I admit that the Universities of London and Melbourne demand the B.A. before beginning the study of medicine, and this we hope ultimately will be the standard with us, but so far it has not been practicable. Nor are the curricula of our medical colleges one whit behind those of other countries; indeed, until five years ago they excelled those of American institutions. It must be admitted, however, that the large grants made in recent years to various colleges have enabled certain institutions to equip themselves for practical demonstration and work in a manner which leaves no doubt as to the ultimate outcome, unless the wealthy men of the Dominion

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\* Read before the Canadian Medical Association, Toronto, 1899.