

progress of our *alma mater*, and the generosity of those to whom is entrusted its management. No single feature for the year affords a more pleasing topic for reference than the course of lectures now in progress on the history of medicine, in which will be traced the growth and development of our art from the earliest times, when it stood surrounded by the mists of empiricism and superstition, from which it slowly emerged and advanced through varying vicissitudes, until it now stands firmly planted on the rock of science.

It is pleasing because there is an inexpressible charm in the lives of the good, brave men whose only objects have been to relieve pain and save life ; and while in the annals of medicine there have been those who preferred self-glorification to honesty, and were prepared to sacrifice every principle to attain it, yet history teems with accounts of those who, by years of labor, by close observation, and by patient research, have reduced medicine to science, and placed it in a position to defy the attacks of faction and command the respect of all.

The history of medicine—medicine in its widest sense, as referring to the study of causation and prevention of disease, its treatment, and the alleviation of human suffering—affords a further pleasure in showing the immense strides which have been taken in advance, more particularly in the last half century. Among those, in later years, who have done much for medicine, no name stands more prominently forward than that of the late illustrious Louis Pasteur, whose death was mourned by the world, and whose remains were accorded by his sorrowing countrymen a funeral befitting his position of prince among men. Although not a member of our profession himself, we profit by his work, and to him be all credit given. No elements of chance assisted him in his labors. He had fixed principles for a guide, and successes such as few men know were his, as, one by one, the knotty questions that he attacked yielded to his piercing scrutiny. Whilst he enriched science by his many discoveries, yet the most important legacy he has left us is the inspiration of his name and the example of his life, wherein is illustrated the wonders which persistent, intelligent, well-directed efforts will accomplish.

From our profession nature yet holds many problems unsolved, many secrets undiscovered. The future is full of possibilities. What share of the harvest will be reaped by the graduates of the University of Toronto it is not easy now to say, but conversant as I am with the training and opportunities which she offers them as students, and knowing the distinguished work some of her graduates have already done, I may be pardoned for predicting that theirs will be a goodly part. Our esteemed professor of physiology paid a solid tribute to our graduates in his address last year when he predicted that, in time to come, our faculty, as occasion demanded,