

It can be truly said with some assurance that no other Canadian family has contributed more richly to the life of this and other counties than the last one mentioned. Four remarkable sons of a remarkable mother have occupied positions of prominence in varied fields which have made the name conspicuous for more than a generation. The wife of an Anglican minister, first in the pioneer sections of Simcoe County, Mrs. F. L. Osler lived to 101, her later years cheered by the enviable record of her sons.

Briton Bath Osler was one of the most eminent lawyers of his or any other day. He died in 1901 at the age of sixty-two. Hon. Featherstone Osler, more reserved and detached than his brothers, but not the type best suited for jury work, held important posts on the Bench and in the financial world. He died in January 1924. Sir Edmund Osler died recently, but almost to the time of his death at the ripe old age of four-score years he was actively in harness as President of the Dominion Bank. Sir Wm. Osler, who was to win so much distinction in medicine in Montreal, Baltimore, Oxford and elsewhere, was quoted round the world for an utterance he made at Johns Hopkins in 1905, when he spoke lightly of "the comparative uselessness of men above forty years of age." He died in 1919, aged seventy, after winning great laurels in medicine.

But no medical discovery of the past fifty years, and perhaps few medical discoveries in history, compare with that of insulin in its importance to the welfare of humanity. At last we have been given an effective weapon with which to combat diabetes, a disease which, in children at least, is one of humanity's greatest scourges. It is just about four years ago that Dr. F. L. Banting, working at Toronto University, with the assistance of Mr. Best, a medical student, first succeeded in isolating insulin from the pancreas of a dog. It is only a little over three years since insulin prepared from the pancreas of hogs and cows has been successfully used in the treatment of diabetes.

Born at Alliston, Dr. Banting entered Toronto University about two years before the outbreak of the war. He left school to enlist in the ranks of the Canadian Army, was wounded in action, and invalided home, after being decorated for bravery. He resumed his course, that of the Arts Medical course, and graduated with honours. He returned to Europe and served in a surgical unit in England till the end of the war. While reading an article on surgery of the pancreas he conceived the idea which led to his brilliant discovery. Dr. Banting's dream has come true, and this human disease is under control. He has been granted the Nobel prize, and a sufficient sum of money to allow him to carry his research work farther afield.

In agriculture too, the county has given us a notable man in the person of Dr. George C. Creelman, late of the Agricultural College of Ontario. Dr. Creelman affords an illustration of what may be accomplished by energy, combined with a strong and attractive personality.