

“Let me tell you, gentlemen, that I, for one, do not think so. Indeed, the occasion which brings us together to-night is one that does not occur often enough, for it serves to show better than words that we are not actuated by a spirit of rivalry, but rather by emulation, and that we are brothers who, in spite of all that may be said, belong to one family—the family of medical men. Is it not, moreover, this brotherly spirit which makes every one of us so happy to-night in joining together to do honour to our distinguished guests, Doctors Rottot and McCallum and Doctor Sir William Hingston? The lives themselves of our honourable brothers, are they not beautiful examples of brotherly love? Have they not, side by side for fifty years and more, exercised their art with the same assiduity and the same devotion, all three of them consecrating their talents and their strength to the same purpose; to teach the principles of an art, to relieve suffering, to heal disease and to help the poor. And think you that when they thus contributed all that was best in them, of both heart and health, they were acting as Canadians, Englishmen or Irishmen?

“No! gentlemen, they acted so because they were men of learning, because they were charitable, indeed, because they are medical men. It is for this reason that we are so proud of them; this is why we honour them to-night, this is why they will always remain for us—models to imitate and masters in whose footsteps we must follow.

“Is it not that which has filled their lives with which we should fill our own? The mission which they laid out for themselves, and which they have so well fulfilled and the duties of which they are still performing—should we not endeavour to accomplish in our turn, each in the feeble measure of his capacity, if we wish to attain to the full height of our vocation? What better or more recent proof could be given to all of the identity of our lives, or to the unitedness of the medical family.

“Yes! gentlemen, the reason for coming together is a beautiful one. Members of the same family and fellow labourers in the same field, we have for a moment laid ou