

University, and it was my privilege to give an address to the Canada Medical Association, the annual meeting of which had been arranged to take place during the three days just preceding the meeting of the British Association. My business here, of course, is chiefly with what I saw, and not with what I said; but I wish again, here in my own land, to repeat my acknowledgments of the brilliant reception given to me by my Canadian brethren, not so much on my own account as for the position in which they placed me, that of a representative for the time being of British surgery.

During those three days I was associated with some three hundred practitioners of medicine. I heard a number of papers read with discussions upon them; and I say, without hesitation, that nothing which was said or done at that meeting but would have reflected credit on any medical gathering in the world. I often hear it said by practitioners in this country, whose lots are cast in places remote from the busy centres of life, that they find it difficult, or even impossible, to attend meetings of professional societies, and to keep themselves abreast with the growth of the science of medicine and surgery; but in that new country and at that Congress I found men eager and able to be present, though they had thousands, instead of scores, of miles to travel, and it was to me quite impossible to realize the fact that men who sat next to me, and who talked fluently and well of the most recent advances in pathology, who knew all the dodges and newest things in laryngology, etiology, and gynecology, practised in villages four, five, or even six days' travel from the place of meeting; that many of them existed in places still unmarked on the map, without any professional neighbor nearer than perhaps a hundred miles. Some of them were even professors in flourishing medical colleges, placed in large cities, which ten or twelve years ago had no existence. In the style, character, and conversation of these men, not only could nothing be detected which could mark them as being defective in general or professional culture and education, or which could place them in a rank lower than the practitioners of my own country, but I doubt very much if from the highest to the lowest in our own ranks we

were to take 250 or 300 of our men at random we could compare favorably with them.

Instances occurred every now and then to me of a most delightful kind, in coming across, suddenly and unexpectedly, faces familiar in college life many years ago—faces of which I had lost all recollection, and of the history of whose owners I had no knowledge at all; men who, tired of the struggles of medical life in the old country, had settled in the new world, and had become prosperous, happy, and successful. One unfailing source of wonderment, which no amount of explanation has yet made clear to me, is the much larger proportion of practitioners to the population which exists on the American continent compared to what we have here. In England we have about one doctor to 1,400 people; in Canada it seems to be about one to 800, and in the States it seems to be about one in 600 or 700; yet they seem to be better paid, to be less hardly worked, to be more prosperous and successful than we are here, and to be in a much better social position than we can boast of. The latter fact, most especially, struck me, and it was proved to me in a great variety of ways. But perhaps I cannot give this impression more clearly than by taking an extract from the speech of a Boston physician recorded at the time of the opening of the new medical school. He gives his impression, as it were, from the other side, and certainly there is a singular concurrence in our experiences. "Dining," he says, "with two Englishmen, a few years since—one an Oxford professor, the other the brother of a lord—I was surprised to hear the views on the social standing of the medical profession, and could not help contrasting their position here, where, if not all autocrats, they are all constitutional, and some of them hereditary, monarchs, accompanied by 'honor, love, obedience, troops of friends.'"

Another source of surprise was the large number of medical schools. Thus, in Montreal, a city of 140,000 inhabitants, there are no less than four of these schools—two Catholic and two Protestant—and, although there is only one of great importance, still all of them are well-officered and well-appointed, and, from what I could see of the results of their training,