

operator. He was essentially practical at all times, and was especially careful about carrying out all the details which are necessary to make an operation successful. He took great interest in Listerism, and went to Great Britain in 1880 largely to see and study Lister's methods. He was naturally conservative, but was always willing to accept and adopt new procedures which appeared to him good. He did an enormous amount of work in his professional lifetime, and was always extremely charitable and kind to the sick poor.

He was, for a long time, one of the most admirable teachers of surgery on this continent. His great aim was to teach—not to lecture—and his methods of illustration were especially good. He held the opinion that, in teaching students, it was always important to show them something while talking to them. He wished to attract the eyes as well as the ears. When the writer was a medical student he spent a portion of a year, in 1872, in the hospitals in New York, and saw something of all the surgeons in that city, but came back to Toronto firmly convinced that he had seen no better teacher of surgery than Dr. Aikins.

In his connection with medical schools he did much to advance the standard of medical education. He was one of the most active promoters of the Ontario Medical Council. Among those who worked with him in this direction were Drs. H. H. Wright and James Thorburn, of Toronto, and Dr. Dickson, of Kingston. The desire of these men was chiefly to establish a central examining board. While their efforts were successful, their powers as "school men" were curtailed, at least from a money-making point of view, because the licensing power was taken from the schools and universities. We think, therefore, their motives were good and unselfish, and deserve commendation rather than denunciation.

Apart from matters purely medical, he was a broad-minded citizen, and took an active interest in all educational questions. He belonged to the Reform party in politics, and was once a candidate in Toronto for the Parliament of Canada. He was a prominent member of the Methodist church, and one of the most generous contributors towards various organizations and churches in that denomination. He was in all respects a good and lovable man. He suffered much, during the last few years of his life, from many worries connected with "school" matters, business and other troubles, but was always patient and uncomplaining. He was seriously ill for about two years, and for many months his relatives were impressed with the sad fact that he must soon depart. Notwithstanding such warnings, the announcement of his death caused considerable shock and profound grief among the vast host of friends and admirers who will ever remember the kindness, and goodness, and greatness of him who has gone.