

most impossible to repress it altogether by any carelessness or neglect.

"That many mute inglorious Miltons lie buried in our churchyards, I venture to doubt: the fire of a Burns is not easily hidden under a bushel, but some smaller lights may be quenched, and the best of such men, like Burns himself, may be thwarted and broken in heart."—(*Dr. Allbutt.*)

Other things being equal, the child who, from infancy, is trained to think and to reason correctly and express its thoughts clearly, will be more likely to attain eminence in mature life in all pursuits of an intellectual character than the child not so trained; indeed, skilful training in early life is essential to success in persons of average natural capacity, and is of unquestionable importance to all.

The efforts to establish and to maintain an efficient system of education in this country are worthy the highest commendation, but the task is a difficult one, and there is danger of enthusiastic legislators over-stepping the mark and making our sons and daughters mere receptacles of knowledge instead of creators of knowledge, by failing to recognise that it is vastly more important that a man should think and reason correctly than that he be the possessor of multitudes of facts and definitions. Physicians, with such questionable elementary training, are like the artificer well supplied with the tools of his craft but lacking the skill to use them. It is not to such that we may look hopefully for real progress in our science; they make up the great army of routine practitioners who trouble themselves little with profundities, and are like Dr. Sangrado, who felt quite sure that those of his patients who, under the care of his pupil Gil Blas, died from excessive bleeding and the copious drinking of warm water, did so because this his panacea was not applied with sufficient vigor and determination.

It is probably not incorrect to say that most medical men in Canada are of opinion that the chief defect in our school system lies in the oversight here referred to. The curriculum for medical matriculants in Canada must create a higher average intellectually among young men aspiring to the profession, but there can be no doubt that a widening of the curriculum so as to embrace a more extensive knowledge of the natural sciences would greatly facilitate the acquisition of knowledge presented to, and required of, medical students. An acquaintance with the laws relating to climatology would serve a useful end in the study of epidemic and endemic diseases, and in an estimate of the influence of climate on disease in general; an acquaintance with minute organisms and histo-

logical structures, such as could be readily acquired in any high school provided with a microscope, would prepare the mental soil for the reception and quick germination of the seeds of knowledge sown by teachers of physiology and kindred subjects in medical schools. The medical student who learns something of biology, of cells and germs, and of bacterial life only after he has entered upon his course of medical lectures, is at a great disadvantage and loses much time in a bewildering effort to master names and technicalities, and I can conceive of no more irksome task for a teacher than to lecture to a class of young men laboring under this disadvantage.

The relations existing between medical schools and licensing bodies in this country are so satisfactory that little desire has been manifested to alter them, and it is beyond doubt that to these relations we owe in great measure the improved status of medical education here.

When the great discovery of Columbus opened to the old world the unknown and virgin resources of the new, the most progressive nations entered eagerly into keen competition for the advantages this discovery presented. National ambition and individual courage and endurance combined towards the great aim and object of colonization and development of natural resources of this continent. The results are patent to all; a newer and greater freedom and civilization in the new world are the rich fruits of these vigorous pioneer efforts, and the evidence exists in the glad and prosperous millions of the western world. Analogous to this is the meteoric brilliancy of the discoveries in medical science within the past fifty years. Physiology, pathology, the etiology of disease, physiological medicine, preventive medicine, these are some of the fields laid open to the modern physician, and they leave no lack of opportunity for the exercise of ambition, skill, and philanthropy. Nearly all European nations and the individual States of the neighboring Republic have shown their determination to participate in the honorable achievements in medicine thus rendered possible in the near future. Schools for the pursuit of original investigation have been liberally endowed by these governments, and this liberality has been supplemented by the wise and princely donations of private individuals.

Sanderson and Klein, Koch and Pasteur, our own Osler, and many others scarcely less distinguished, are devoting their lives with indefatigable zeal to the elucidation of scientific questions upon which rests the superstructure of medical practice, and they are enabled to do so only through the liberality of the various governments under