

If I were asked to advise the average young graduate going abroad as to what he should do in regard to taking a foreign degree, my advice would be this :

The foreign degree has its usefulness in impressing certain people with the fact that you have had special opportunity that does not come to all, but does not in itself mean anything beyond the proof of one or more examinations passed in a course already bestrewn with similar stumbling blocks successfully circumvented.

My impression is that if the graduate spent what time he could spare from his clinics and hospital experiences abroad in acquiring all the culture the old world affords, rather than in cramming for an ornamental degree, the value of which is more apparent than real, he would do best. There is no particular virtue attached to such examinations, which, after all, are no greater test of knowledge than those already passed by the licensed practitioner in Ontario.

It will ever be the case in a developing country that we are denied opportunities for culture that are so common in Europe, and it is our duty to accept every chance to broaden our minds when it comes within our grasp. You may say, how can a busy country doctor improve his mind while work of the most arduous kind is his daily lot, and yet this practitioner is not so hardly put to it that he must be driven to the expedient of extracting sunshine from cucumbers. If properly equipped mentally, he has in many respects the better of the argument as far as his city brother is concerned. Certainly, while he is young and vigorous he is to be envied, not pitied—everything depends on himself. A man deliberately setting himself about it can find broadening influences everywhere, and if he will but make use of what he may call his idle minutes, will acquire the habit of improving his mind. The tendency to mark time until an illusive auspicious moment arrives finds many a heart-sick mortal still marking time with the graveyard plainly in view. He has never grasped the truth that we must *make* our auspicious moments, and there is abundant opportunity in the day of every one, no matter how busy. We are all apt to exaggerate the tremendous strain under which we struggle—of course, cases of brain exhaustion are common