

EDITORIAL

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL ALUMNI SOCIETY.

"To-day our Reverend Mother welcomes back
Her wisest scholars, those who understood
The deeper teaching of her mystic tome,
And offered their fresh lives to make it good."

"They love her best who to themselves are true,
And what they dare to dream of dare to do."

—*Harvard Commemoration Ode.*

THERE are those whom we have heard who have complained of the non-existence of a Canadian national sentiment, and who, too, may be inclined to deny that in the student life of our larger educational institutions there is any *esprit de corps* to any degree comparable to that which lends a charm and romance to the school days of *Tom Brown*, or which simulates in perennial freshness and exuberant joyousness the adventures of *Verdant Green*; but it occurs to us that such have forgotten the laws of ordinary growth and development and expect the coral island to appear in a night above the surface of the southern sea, or that every Canadian creation must perforce have so god-like an origin as to at once spring into full life, like Minerva, full armed from the forehead of Jove.

Remembering the history of our University since 1855, and especially of the vicissitudes which its Medical Faculty has undergone during the years which have passed, we are not surprised that up to the present there has been but little evidence that there existed a section of her graduates numbering some six hundred who, in their every-day lives, and as a profession, are bound together both by sentiment and interest to a greater degree than any other class of graduates; and who ought to take a more than ordinary interest in and exercise no small influence on the future of their Alma Mater. We, therefore, hail with no common pleasure the evidence of this growing interest and influence in University matters, in the formation of an association of medical men who are graduates, to be called, we believe, "The Medical Alumni Society of the University of Toronto."

Preliminary meetings for organization have been held, and a committee is at work arranging for the first general meeting to be held on the occasion of the Medical Convocation some time in May. We

understand that it is proposed to have a dinner in the evening, at which the social side of the Society will, doubtless, be fully cultivated. The scope of such a Society's work must necessarily be proportioned to the interest taken by members in their common profession and in one another. While it is true that

"Our slender life runs rippling by, and glides
Into the silent hollow of the past,"

nevertheless, to all of us come times when our greatest delight is to recall again the "dewy dawn of memory," and that past life unalloyed, as it now appears to anyone, with the cares and routine incident to our lives in the present. Whether we bring back "the tumult of the halls," "the high debate," or, like Goldsmith's pensioner,

"Shoulder our crutch and show how fields were won"
at football, the sentiment we desire to see developed, is fostered; and to this degree the individual influence in the community, which in so unusual a degree is possessed by physicians shall be unified in such a manner as to make the voice of the medical graduates to be heard in University affairs in a manner heretofore never dreamed of. Activity in a very remarkable degree is being exhibited in other directions in University matters, and if the medical graduates wish to obtain for the profession those rights and advantages which its importance in a national system of education demands, it behooves them to avail themselves of the opportunities presented by such an association as an Alumni Society, to press forward the claims of Medicine as a science to recognition as one of the most important professions, and one whose needs are to be measured rather by the uncomprehended infinite in nature than by the finite known. We urge most strongly upon all University men to at once take steps to become members of the new Society.

MALPRACTICE SUITS AND THE LESSLIE TESTIMONIAL.

THE increasing importance and value attached to a single human life have ever been recognized as the means of the degree of advancement of any nation, and especially of any Christian nation; and, when, by license, physicians are in-