

digitalis, nitro-glycerine, and other drugs, were shown. Traces were also shown which prove that in many cases of pneumonia, even during the first twenty-four hours, the tension of the radial artery is much lowered.

Drs. Yeomans, Mackid, Burgess, and Clapp were appointed to read papers at the next meeting of the Association, which will be held in Palmerston, two or three weeks after the meeting of the Ontario Association.

### Miscellaneous.

#### ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF BELLEVUE HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Delivered March 15th, 1882.

BY JOHN S. BILLINGS, M.D.,  
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I vaguely remember that once upon a time—a long while ago it seems, for I look back at it across the gulf of a great war, in which the days were like weeks, and the months almost counted for years—I spent one evening on a platform in a large hall, in the character of a new graduate in medicine. A part of the ceremonies on that auspicious occasion consisted of a valedictory address to the graduates, delivered by the most eloquent member of the faculty—an address which was highly praised, but of which I have vainly tried to remember either the ideas or the phraseology. Fearing that this specially localized loss of memory might be a symptom of a new nervous disease which I should have to name and describe, I have consulted several of my medical friends as to their experience in this respect, and I am much pleased to be able to say that I have found very few who have not totally forgotten the words of congratulation and of counsel given to them when they received their diplomas.

Nor is the reason of this far to seek. The new doctor, in the pride and vigour of youth, just stepping out of leading-strings, and realizing that he is really his own man at last—standing at the threshold of that wonderful, glittering world which beckons him on so enticingly, and in which fame, and love, and

wealth await his coming—this learned and skilful physician is held back yet another hour, and compelled to listen to advice from one whom he does not know, but who can surely have nothing to tell him beyond some well-worn platitudes about the dignity and honour of the profession which he has chosen, and that if he will be virtuous he will be happy, or words to that effect. Small wonder then that, after a moment's attention, his thoughts wander, and he drifts away on that beautiful river of reverie upon whose banks are Spanish castles unmatched by those of the Rhine or the Danube, and which are in strange contrast to the practical, prosaic, warehouse sort of view which his orator is trying to present. If, therefore, I observe five minutes hence that some of my special audience here, the new graduates, are gazing reflectively upon some point of infinite distance, or are evidently magnetized by some particular wave in the sea of this other audience before me, I shall know that it is all quite as it should be, and that my remarks are fulfilling their purpose.

Being unable, as I have just explained, to remember what was said to me by way of valedictory, and never having been present at a similar ceremony from that day to this, I thought it would be prudent to consult the literature of the subject and find out what is usually said upon such occasions. For this purpose I have examined about a hundred valedictory addresses, and have obtained from them a vast amount of instruction, and some little amusement. From them I gather that this is an epoch in your lives, that you are entering a remarkable age of the world's history (it is customary here to allude to steam and electricity), that you live in the most wonderful country under the sun, and that the eyes of the world are upon you. All are agreed upon these points, and also as to the importance and dignity of the science and art of medicine, and the necessity of continued study on your part to keep pace with its advances. But the addresses are not equally harmonious on all points. Some of them assert that the condition of medical education in this country is not altogether satisfactory, that there are some medical colleges (not, of course, the