

THE Canadian Practitioner

A SEMI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS
OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

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MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

We have received the admirable report on medical education in the different medical colleges of the United States and Canada for the session 1889-90, published by Dr. John H. Rauch, secretary of the Illinois State Board of Health. It contains a vast amount of information about all the colleges, including their requirements, number in attendance for the last ten years, number of graduates, etc.

There are still grand opportunities for raising the standard in some parts of the Union; for instance, we find such records as the following from certain medical schools: "Requirements for admission, *none*; for graduation, (1) twenty-one years of age; (2) good moral character; (3) two full courses of lectures; (4) satisfactory examination." We believe that in such the examinations are generally *satisfactory*. The great republic surely makes a farce of its boasted freedom when it allows such atrocities as these two-year mills to grind out ignorant incompetents to prey on its credulous and gullible citizens.

North America surpasses the world in its machinery for manufacturing doctors. Whence come they and whither do they go? Will the supply soon meet the demand? In Canada there were, last year, 1,564 medical students, with 361 graduates. In the United States there were 14,884 students and 4,492 graduates. These figures should be encouraging to those who feel nervous about the supply.

Our medical schools are certainly doing good work as far as quantity goes. They are working with heroic patriotism to meet the demand before mentioned. Some of them have still vacant

seats, especially for those who wish to take full courses of didactic lectures, frequently repeated. There is a positive charm about lecturing to large classes and raking in proportionate heaps of shekels. Laboratory and bedside work is somewhat slow, difficult, and expensive. Modern ideas on these points should be repressed. Those schools which are trying to keep abreast of the times are likely to interfere with vested rights. We are told that such interference would be a monstrous injustice, and will not be tolerated in this province at all events.

Some of these matters will shortly be considered by the Ontario Medical Council in revising the curriculum. The divine right of lecturing *ad infinitum et ad nauseam* is being endangered. Medical students are begging for short intervals between daylight and dark for work in the laboratory, dissecting-room, mortuary, hospital, and dispensary. But some of our most experienced teachers say that such radicalism should not be encouraged; they have their didactic lectures, carefully prepared many long years ago; let the students attend these courses twice—and thrice, if they wish. A little dissecting and hospital work will be thrown in, but not enough to interfere with the crowning glories of didactic lecturing.

Why bother about new-fangled and useless notions respecting biology, chemistry, pathology, and bacteriology? Recent advances in these branches necessitate an amount of study, a division of labor, and a vast expenditure, which are highly objectionable. If, perchance, the costly appliances for the demonstration of these subjects be brought into the country, and if suitable and well-equipped laboratories be erected, there is a feeling in certain quarters that medical students should be prevented from participating in the benefits to be derived therefrom. We may say, however, that such views do not meet with the enthusiastic approval of the profession of Ontario.

VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

Obstinate vomiting of pregnancy occasionally leads to fatal results, even when all known methods of treatment have been tried. Dr. Angus Mackinnon, of Guelph, published a short paper in the *American Journal of Obstetrics* in which he adopts the idea of Dr. Gailly Hewitt,