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## CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.  
Valedictory Address ..... 145

CORRESPONDENCE.  
Correspondence ..... 149

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.  
Pneumonia an Infectious Disease,  
150—The Treatment of Cholera,  
153—Flatulence, 155—Iodoform  
in the Treatment of Goitre, 155  
—Levis' Metallic Splints for

Fracture of Lower End of the  
Radius, 156—Headache, Spinal  
Irritation and Sympathetic Nervous  
Affections due to Eye Strain,  
157—Sick Headache, 158—The  
Treatment of Whooping Cough,  
159—Specific Treatment of  
Diphtheria and Croup, 160—  
Constant Crying in an Infant,  
160—Belladonna Injection for  
Gonorrhœa..... 161

### EDITORIAL.

Cholera, 161—Precaution against  
Cholera, 162—Bishop's College  
Faculty of Medicine, 163—The  
Medical Service of Atlantic  
Steamships, 165—McGill Uni-  
versity, Annual Convention, 166  
—Local and General, 166—Per-  
sonal..... 168

## Original Communications.

### VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

Delivered on behalf of the  
Medical Faculty of Bishop's College  
to the Graduating Class of 1885,

By

A. LAPHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG.,  
Professor of Botany.

### GENTLEMEN GRADUATES:—

The Faculty has this year conferred upon me the honor of addressing some farewell words on their behalf, to you, the gentlemen of the Graduating Class of 1885. I shall not detain you long, for I am well aware of your impatience to set loose your hopeful barques upon the flowing tide which is about to bear you on to fame and fortune, in that near future on which you have so often looked with dreaming, longing eyes. I am glad to have the pleasure of being the first to congratulate you on your success and to welcome you to the ranks of the profession.

In the remarks which I am about to make I would speak to you as those whom we have treated as fellow-workers rather than as pupils in the past, and who are now our colleagues and younger brethren—to whom we would, ere parting, give some kindly-meant encouragement and advice. For, owing to the somewhat limited number of the students attending this young but vigorous school, you have occupied an unique position, and had unusual advantages here. Your professors have become personally acquainted with each one of you, and your varying capacities and needs, and were thus enabled to raise you when you fell and

strengthen you when you were weak. Some, alas! who began with you, have fallen out of the onward marching ranks, but this has been from no fault of their professors, who sympathize with them in their misfortune, and hold out to them the hope that another year's study will bring them up to the standard which you have attained.

Becoming, as you have, so well acquainted with your teachers and with each other, you have developed a strong *esprit de corps*, for which this school is noted, and of which we have frequent proofs, by receiving letters from former students now occupying high positions in different parts of the Globe. We have done the best we could for you, in the time at our disposal, which was all too short to impart the immense and constantly increasing mass of information, which every well-informed medical man is bound to possess. We have brought you this far, but you must continue your great unknown journey through life alone, and stand or fall on your own merits. You have passed your final examination in this College, but you have yet another and a longer one to pass, which will begin with to-day, and only end with your life—I mean the great examination before the public. But if you really have assimilated the knowledge imparted to you, and which we believe you to possess, you need have no fear as to the result.

I well remember the day, nine years ago, when I stood in a position similar to that you now occupy, and the feeling of pride and exultation I experienced, when I was welcomed by my late awe-inspiring professors as a man and a brother, and a full life-member of our noble profession. I may also tell you, in confidence, that I felt, as you