

But medicine advances by leaps and bounds, and it is absolutely impossible for one brain to compass the length and breadth of medical knowledge. Nor is it reasonable that the man just graduated should be expected to be equipped with a full knowledge of medicine, embracing all the newest procedures, and ultimate tests in every specialty. If this were demanded, the curriculum of the medical course would be stretched out by many years, and the task of entering upon the practice of the healing art, already difficult enough, would be made impossible for the average man or woman. In addition, the pecuniary results to be obtained afterwards, would not be worth the investment of time and money. *Our license to practice does not even yet demand that the graduate be able to recognize a membrana tympani*, the hearing of a few lectures will not teach him this. In the Universities of McGill and Toronto, it is only very recently that the course has been made clinical, instead of didactic.

The public is both ignorant and superstitious; they have been accustomed to think that the letters M.B. or M.D.C.M. mean that the owner of these mystical characters is possessed of a complete knowledge of all things medical. On the other hand, you know and I know, that we are vastly ignorant, and that medicine is far from an exact science. It is needful to correct this ignorance on the part of the general public.

Reason is there, and the very best, that men should specialize, should fit themselves to know all there is to know upon some one of the various branches of the healing art.

The specialist exists to give assistance to his brethren, the general practitioners, not to enter into competition with them in any shape or form.

But if the specialist exists for the assistance of the general practitioner, I would have the latter fixed in his determination to demand high qualifications of those whom he calls upon for such assistance. What should those qualifications be?

1st. An excellent general preliminary education, including a knowledge of the more important modern languages, an indispensable accomplishment for one who must follow the international literature of the day.

2nd. A postgraduate position as hospital interne, preferably in medicine, but better still in both medicine and surgery.

3rd. A year or more in general practice, during which he may try himself out, and when he chooses his specialty, choose wisely.

4th. If the choice be Oto-Laryngology, then must there follow an internship of at least eighteen months, devoted exclusively