

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XXV.

MAY, 1897.

No. 11.

Original Communications.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

DELIVERED TO THE GRADUATES IN MEDICINE AT THE ANNUAL CON-
VOCATION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

APRIL 2ND, 1897.

BY

H. S. BIRKETT, M.D.,

Professor of Laryngology, McGill University: Laryngologist, Montreal General
Hospital.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:

For the past four years it has been the duty of the Members of the Faculty to lecture to you within the College walls of the University, and in the theatres of the hospitals, but to-day such duties cease, and the relation of pupil and teacher no longer exists; we are *confrères* and to me has been delegated the privilege of congratulating you upon your preferment, and of welcoming you to the ranks of an honourable profession.

Your progress during the past four years has been our earnest care, and no effort has been spared to fit you for the responsibilities which, from this day forth, you are yourselves to assume. You have been brought to the goal of your first ambition, and it now remains for each of you to determine your future career.

There is much to be borne and much that is wearisome in the conditions of life upon which you are about to enter. The weight of the burden can be lightened by the view you may take of the work. Do not look to your profession as a mere source of pecuniary gain and personal preferment, for it offers you the highest opportunities for the advancement of your intellectual powers, the promotion of social good and the alleviation of physical woes of suffering mankind. By concentrating every faculty to the careful fulfilment of such work, the