

make practice; and second, the equipment, in the highest degree which the present position of medical science renders possible, of those who enter the profession, with every accomplishment and all the skill available for the prevention of physical and mental ills, and the cure or amelioration of ailments actually in existence.

Many have been the proposals intended to deal with this difficulty, but in spite of a class of *ultra* economic philosophers who so deify freedom as to say, "Let trade in Medicine be free, and let a discriminating public select their leeches and take the consequences of their own selection," it seems evident to the careful observer, even from the standpoint of results to the patient, that we must have starting points on a higher principle than at present exists with regard to medical education, both in its aims and methods, before any ideal status can either be reached or maintained. Some have said that too much knowledge makes men impractical, but the same has, time and again, been said regarding scientific farming, which now as in cattle-breeding, butter-making, bee-culture, is proving itself to be the only hope of Canadian agriculture. Without speaking pragmatically, it may fairly be said that a liberal education is the first step toward giving those practicing Medicine and those who may be sufferers, true ideas of what the scope of the science is; while the physician will be much more likely to seek the accomplishment of the noble purposes of his profession with less regard to its financial aspect, and the patient, realizing what is involved in the attainment of professional status, will be more ready to recognize his financial obligations. It is true that many of the *trade* ailments would proportionately be reduced to a minimum; but if the physician were recognized primarily rather as a conservator of health than as a curer of aberrations from it, he would be placed in his true position, and the proper status of the profession might be in some degree attained. Should anyone characterize such an ideal status as utopian, we answer that from the moral stand-point it is the only position which is unassailable. Let it be once claimed for Medicine that it originated and exists as a business which must be pushed like any other money-making occupation, that where business does not exist it must be made, that while we do not necessarily create disease, it is not our business to prevent it, and we may then without any scru-

ples, following the avenues sought out by charlatans of every *cultus*, ply our trade. Let us, however, no longer hypocritically parade our pretensions to being the benevolent custodians of the mysteries of Hygeia, or her son Esculapius, but affix to our sign-boards, "Licensed by the State to alleviate the woes of a needy vendor of potions!" This brutal *trade aspect* of our profession is being forced upon us by ourselves. The days when, with a rapidly multiplying population, new fields for the beneficent practice of Medicine were opening up, have gone by, since during the last decade, the total population has been added to but slightly in a relative sense, many rural municipalities having a less population in 1887 than in 1881; while special organizations in the interests of public health have been everywhere instituted. In spite of these facts, and with positive statistics to the effect that the prices of farm-lands, the basis for the calculation of values, have depreciated, we have, settled in the different parts of the Province, probably over five hundred more practitioners than there were ten years ago. What mean the unseemly bickerings and jealousies of men, the representatives of a time-honored profession; what indicate the innumerable clubs, lodges, societies, and other co-operative associations worked at a dollar a head? Are the first owing to over-anxiety to benefit suffering humanity; or the second due to an exuberance of charity, seeking to let gleams of sunshine through the narrow windows of the *protégé* of St. Crispin of exiguous means? To the answer that the race is to the swift and the battle to the strong, that it is undoubtedly in the interests of the people, the profession and Medicine that our medical schools prepare, and the Council license, as many neophytes as can be moulded in the press which gives the required stamp, we reply that it seems to us better that the public and profession should at once understand each other, and that their relations be brought at once down to the vulgar level of profit and loss. But to those who still hold to the illusion of the innate nobility of the true physician, we quote immortal words: "When we can drain the ocean into our mill-ponds, and bottle up the force of gravity, to be sold by retail, in our gas-jars; then may we hope to comprehend the infinitudes of man's soul under formulas of profit and loss; and rule over this too, as over a patent engine, by checks, and valves, and balances!"