

by your noble and unselfish deeds, by your single devotion to your ideal of duty, by your honest endeavor to enlarge the boundaries of medical science, do honor to yourselves and to your Alma Mater.

On this memorable day on which you enter upon the campaign against vice, ignorance and disease, let it be your firm resolve not to make your noble office subservient to any ignoble end ; but let each of you say as did Hippocrates of old, " With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practise my art."

THE CAUSES OF FAILURE TO OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS ON THE CERVIX UTERI.

By A. LAPHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.

Fellow of the American Gynaecological Society, Gynaecologist to the Montreal Dispensary and to the Samaritan Hospital ; Surgeon to the Western Hospital, Professor of Clinical Gynaecology in Bishop's University.

Having had an experience of over three hundred cases of operations on the cervix uteri and having been present at or taken part in a hundred more which were performed by other operators, it is impossible for me to shut my eyes to the fact that success does not follow it immediately in all cases, and in some cases not at all. I must even go further and admit what some of the opponents of the operation claim, that a few of the patients are made decidedly worse by it. But there are reasons for this as for everything else, and I shall now endeavor to point out the causes for these failures. I shall do so the more freely and frankly because some of the failures I have met with occurred among my own patients who were operated on during my earlier and less experienced years. The operation for repair of a lacerated cervix seems at first sight a simple and easy one, but I have come to the conclusion that to do a bad case properly is one of the most difficult of minor gynaecological operations. I have seen the great Emmett, the inventor of it, spend the best part of an hour with the best of assistance in performing it on what an inexperienced operator would have called an easy case, hardly bad enough to operate on at all ; it was one of those cases of deep bilateral laceration which had healed by granulation, the angle between the everted lips having been filled in with cicatricial tissue, while the red ciliated epithelium of the mucous membrane of the cervical canal had been destroyed by applications of nitrate