

disease, and sympathizing with the bereaved; and, mark my words, it is only the man who thoroughly knows his profession that in the long run reaches the top of the ladder, and who deserves and receives the gratitude of his patients and the esteem and respect of his confrères.

I am indebted to Dr. Pepper, of Philadelphia, and desire to return him my most sincere thanks, for a copy of his address containing a vast amount of information on the subject of medical education, delivered by him a few years ago. In speaking of the system of medical education in the United States (and his remarks would have applied to Canada a few years ago, although not quite to the same extent), he says that if we would learn the truth and know the estimation in which our medical education has of late been held by other countries, it needs only to examine the changes which have taken place in their system of medical teaching, proportionate to the vast advancement in medical knowledge, and then turn to the picture of our own position as drawn by those most competent to depict it. He proceeds to say that in every country but ours, without, so far as I know, a single exception, where a system of medical education can be said to exist, certain general principles will be found embodied in that system. These are, first, a matriculation examination; second, a sufficient length of time devoted to medical studies; third, a careful personal training of each student in all practical and clinical branches; fourth, careful grading of the course; and, fifth, impartial examinations by disinterested individuals. On the whole, these are about the requirements necessary in the Dominion at the present time for a student before receiving the right to practise. Dr. Pepper goes on to say that there are some in this country who would cry out at once that so prolonged and elaborate a course of study as I have mentioned is not necessary in America to produce good practical doctors, but that it can only tend to develop a class of over-educated, supercilious, impractical medical men, too good and fine for the average work of a physician. No frame of mind is more enjoyable than the self-complacent contentment of the optimist who holds the candle of his own excellencies so close to his eye that it dazzles him, and makes him blind to the broad sunlight of truth and progress

flooding the world. Such objections as the above might be expected if the elevated system of teaching which I have sketched were adopted only in one or two very old and wealthy countries, for it might then seem to be due to a highly artificial state of society. But when we see that not only the older and more highly civilized and more densely populated countries, such as England, France, and Germany, but in those whose state of civilization and the condition of whose people we should be slow to regard as favorable, compared with our own, as Russia and Spain, in those such as Brazil and Australia, whose forms of government and social system are younger even than our own, and, finally, even in countries which, like Mexico and the republics of South America, we are supposed to regard as only semi-civilized, and where the instability of government and the frequent convulsions of social order would seem to render any fixed and comprehensive educational policy impossible; when we see that in each and all of these a thorough plan of medical education is held essential for the welfare of the community, for the development of medical science, and for the interests of the medical profession itself, it is surely time to consider carefully if we are not sadly at fault in this; and if, while elsewhere the requirements of medical education have been made to keep pace with the growth of medical knowledge, with us they have not been controlled by other and far less proper influences. Now, if we consider the present state of medical science and note the vast advances that have been made during the past twenty-five or thirty years in all of its departments; if we reflect upon the enormous extent of accurate information of minute technical knowledge and of special practical training which is now required to fit a man to practise medicine scientifically, and to render to those sufferers who seek his help the full measure of the benefits which the healing art is now capable of bestowing, shall we be surprised at the careful and prolonged course of study that we find is imposed in all countries but our own upon the applicant for the degree of medicine?

Surely no one can fail to appreciate the enormous importance of having thoroughly trained and skilful physicians.