

The spirit of service still prevails and has been strengthened by the splendid work done and the great sacrifices made by so many medical men of Canada during the great war, and it is in this same spirit of service that the hope of the future of the medical profession lies.

Successful co-operation demands the spirit of service and those involved must realize the necessity of taking their proper part. They must trust their fellows and prove themselves worthy to be trusted. They must keep their equipment serviceable and add to their knowledge by the constant reconstruction of experience, whether personal or transmitted.

The one who does not enjoy meeting with his fellow practitioners in local, provincial or other medical societies is difficult to understand and the man who thinks he gets nothing out of so doing is a problem,—a subject for research. The doctor who thinks himself too busy to get away for a few days to take part in a meeting, if only by his presence, or who is satisfied with his fund of working knowledge, is likely soon to become a pronounced case of chronic fossilization.

Fossilization of ideas and cerebral block, in so far as the practice of medicine is concerned, is not in the interest of the public good and tends to destroy or to lessen confidence and to create loopholes through which irregulars may osmose and afterwards thrive.

The question might well be asked as to whether we are doing all that we should to secure and to maintain the standard of efficiency expected and demanded by the public.

To the matter of undergraduate medical education reference will be made later, but here one ventures to state that possibly there is something wrong with the system by which a man is graduated and licensed to practise medicine without further checking up until death relieves him of his various duties.

It is true that in Ontario he has to renew his license from year to year and provided that he commits no serious misdemeanour and continues to contribute to the funds of the council the sum of two dollars a year he is considered to be getting on well and to be a fit person to continue his important duties in relation to the public whom he may serve.

Experience is a good teacher but always provided that its interpretation is carefully sought and a logical idea determined. Most men have their efficiency strengthened by experience but unfortunately there are a few who have not, and because of their failure to think, to investigate, to check and to confer.

In the permanent army a system has prevailed by which medical officers have been required to pass examinations on medical subjects at various stages prior to promotion, and it has been suggested from some