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TO THE

*Senate of the University of Toronto*

GENTLEMEN,

In view of the attack now being made upon the Park Hospital scheme, in connection with this University, I take the liberty of presenting to you in detail the history of the origin of the scheme.

I need hardly remind the Senate that at one time there existed a Faculty of Medicine in this University, maintained like the Arts Faculty, out of a common fund, and which, as is generally understood, was abolished to serve not public but private interests.

During my many years of official connection with the University, the abolition of this Faculty was continually brought to my notice by persons prominently connected with the University, as one of the most serious assaults to which she had been subject.

Many of the greatest Universities, which combine teaching Faculties of Arts and Medicine, have attained their chief eminence by reason of the valuable services which, through their connection with medicine, they have been in a position to render towards the advancement of medical science.

In the case of this University it certainly needs no argument to shew that the presence throughout the Province of medical men educated under the inspiring influence of a University whose policy should be to endeavour to advance the science of preventive as well as curative medicine, must increase her hold on the affections of the people, strengthen her stability, and enlarge her possibilities for usefulness.

Many years ago, when this University was but an examining body in medicine, an effort was made by the Senate to give such a direction and aim to medical education, but after a trial extending over about ten years, we had really accomplished nothing.

For example, you will remember that the Senate decided that Biology was too important a subject not to form part of a liberal medical education, and accordingly placed it on our medical curriculum, but having no teaching faculty, we were powerless to compel students to devote themselves to its study.

When, therefore, the Legislature in 1887 authorized this Senate to re-establish the Medical Faculty, such action was so heartily approved of that within about two months the Senate had unanimously endorsed such legislation by restoring the faculty.