

give rise to "*mucus ruls*" or a "*Fine crepitus*," he is aptly able to distinguish the one from the other; technical words, some of them difficult of pronunciation, get familiar to him,—in fine his faculty of observation is being educated, and I know of no faculty more worthy of being taught, or more necessary to the physician. If properly cultivated during your student's career, it will render the diagnosis of cases comparatively easy to you, when thrown entirely upon your own responsibility. By closely following the Hospital wards from the commencement of your pupilage, this faculty will be constantly brought into play; it will thus expand, and, to the keen observer, with one half the trouble, signs and symptoms, which may have escaped the attention of those in whom observation is dormant, will be brought to the surface, and receive due attention.

Hospital attendance is every year assuming more importance in the eyes of those best qualified to judge, and I hope the day is not far distant, when the amount of it which is at present required by the law of Canada, viz., one year will at least be doubled. Two years practical illustration of the doctrine inculcated in the lecture room is not more than enough, and in after life will be well appreciated by all who take it. In fact, gentlemen, when I look about me, and see the course of those who attended lectures with me, I am struck with the fact, that those who have been most successful are those who upon every possible opportunity were at the bedside, examining, watching and recording cases. If I could urge no higher motive than that pecuniary and professional success was the sure reward of the close hospital student, I would still press you to it. But there is a nobler motive still, and when I mention it I am sure it will find a response in every breast. You accept a high and holy trust, when the parchment, which certifies your qualification to practice the healing art, is placed in your possession. For the proper fulfilment of this trust you will one day have to give an account. It is therefore your *duty* to your fellow men to prepare in every possible way, so that when called to practice your profession, you may be able to bring to your aid every possible element of success. I know of none more likely to come to your assistance, when you first commence practice, and lack that which will alone give you confidence—experience—than the hours and days you have passed in Hospital attendance. At the very commencement then of your student's career I would advise your commencing "to walk" the Hospital. Not in the too literal application of some students, who walk the wards without ever making an attempt to listen

to the clinical remarks, passing their time in frivolous amusement, but with an honest determination to avail yourself of every opportunity to increase your store of practical knowledge. If you do this, gentlemen, I have no fear of the result, when you commence practice, and are thrown upon your own responsibility. No matter how sudden or how great the emergency, which may call for instant action, you will be found prepared, and will never cease to be thankful for the long and close attention you gave to the Hospital wards. I cannot leave this subject of Hospital attendance, without a word or two with regard to a complaint, which was becoming common, even while I was a student. I allude to the comparatively small number of clinical teachers, when compared to the number of students, at the Hospital attended principally by the English speaking students. Only two Physicians attend at one time, and as the number of students is seldom much under one hundred, even if equally divided, it would give about fifty each. I need hardly express my opinion that this number is a half more than any one man can do justice to, and that when students complain that from the numbers crowding around the bed they are deprived of much information, which they might otherwise obtain, there is reason in their murmuring. I have good reasons to know that this fact is well known and appreciated by a number of the influential governors of that institution, and I much mistake the spirit of those men, and of the age in which we live, if the system, which has so long prevailed in that institution, and which has prevented a fair representation of the general outside profession upon its staff, and a thorough utilization of its material for the purposes of Clinical teaching, is not fast drawing to a close.

Having said so much with reference to the profession of Medicine as it concerns ourselves, I desire, before closing, to say a few words with regard to its proper function in society. At a time like the present, which by all is acknowledged to be one of rapid transition, and when everything is investigated with the keenest scrutiny, the question is often asked, and but seldom answered, whether the medical profession, as a whole, really does perform what it professes; whether it lowers the rate of mortality, diminishes the total amount of sickness, and favors the growth of a robust and healthy population. Even in ancient times this question occupied the attention of some of the wisest men of that period, who came to a conclusion, which I think we will hardly admit was satisfactory. They asserted that one office of the state was to ensure that all members of the com-