

tablished on a scientific basis, medicine, which is but an applied science of biological doctrine, became less empirical and more scientific, and by the aid of physiology and pathology, which are the necessary sequence of biological investigation, has advanced to the present high and satisfactory position it occupies. The very fact that morbid processes are viewed and studied from a physiological standpoint, and are estimated and measured by the laws that govern elementary processes of life, renders it certain that the progress of the recent past and of the present is on surer lines and firmer foundation than ever before, and that the future of medicine will be the glorious sequel of the present, as the present is the glorious sequel of the past. It justifies the belief, that the advantages to the human race likely to accrue from the prosecution of medical studies and investigation pursued on these lines, will be far greater in the future than in the past, that physiology and pathology, which are but in their infancy, are destined to illuminate the dark places in medicine and reveal the true cause of much human suffering and premature death.

We are accustomed to regard with wonder the achievements of modern invention in the art of war, and to contemplate with amazement the perfected instruments of destruction that strengthen the hands of modern belligerents, but the general who advances to battle with all these at his command has no greater advantage over a barbarous foe than modern medical searchers after truth in the realms of disease have over their empirical brothers of the prebiological period. Possessing these advantages, and stimulated by this prospect, it is reasonable to suppose there will, in the near future, arise men whose investigations, beginning where those of Sanderson, Koch, Virchow, and Pasteur leave off, will be equally brilliant and equally conducive to human happiness and longevity.

The country that produces these men will be the country that affords the best medical education to those entering the profession, and that most facilitates original investigation for those who have chosen that field of labor. No physician in this country worthy of the profession to which he belongs can be indifferent to the position Canada shall occupy in the honorable and honored competition in which so many are and will be engaged. The future of the medical profession in this as in

any other country will largely depend upon the natural ability and the mental and moral training in childhood and youth of those entering its ranks ; so that in considering any scheme for the creation of a high standard of medical qualification, domestic training and the plan of education pursued in public schools must be recognized as bearing an important part.

The efforts to establish and to maintain an efficient system of education in this country are worthy the highest commendation, but the task is a difficult one, and there is danger of enthusiastic legislators over-stepping the mark and making our sons and daughters mere receptacles of knowledge instead of creators of knowledge, by failing to recognize that it is vastly more important that a man should think and reason correctly than that he be the possessor of multitudes of facts and definitions. Physicians, with such questionable elementary training, are like the artificer well supplied with the tools of his craft but lacking the skill to use them. It is not to such that we may look hopefully for real progress in our science ; they make up the great army of routine practitioners who trouble themselves little with profundities, and are like Dr. Sangrado, who felt quite sure that those of his patients who, under the care of his pupil Gil Blas, died from excessive bleeding and the copious drinking of warm water, did so because this his panacea was not applied with sufficient vigor and determination.

It is probable not incorrect to say that most medical men in Canada are of opinion that the chief defect in our school system lies in the oversight here referred to. The curriculum for medical matriculants in Canada must create a higher average intellectually among young men aspiring to the profession, but there can be no doubt that a widening of the curriculum so as to embrace a more extensive knowledge of the natural sciences would greatly facilitate the acquisition of knowledge presented to, and required of, medical students. An acquaintance with the laws relating to climatology would serve a useful end in the study of epidemic and endemic diseases, and in an estimate of the influence of climate on disease in general ; an acquaintance with minute organisms and histological structures, such as could be readily acquired in any high school provided with a microscope, would prepare the mental soil for the reception and