

of the profession as will enable him to discharge with credit the responsibilities devolving upon him when in the ranks of professional life. Such assemblages as the present are not without their value. The presence of the teachers might be accepted as an earnest of their desire to fulfill the varied duties they have undertaken to perform, and that while they devoted themselves to their pupils' interest, they expected in return the most lively co-operation possible during the prosecution of their studies. At present in this audience are two classes of students—those who are now commencing or still prosecuting studies, and those who are about to turn the instruction received to practical account. The chief and the important object in view in attending medical lectures is to gain information and store it up for future use in the varied paths of medical life. This is a critical time in your fortunes. Knowledge is not only power, but it is pleasure; such was the opinion of Bacon, the prince of all philosophers. Great men have been amongst you, and it is your happiness that some of them are still with you. It is not an uncommon thing for local reputations to have no national recognition. It is not so with the head of this institution, who is honored and respected amongst his fellow-men, and has recently filled one of the first scientific positions in the world as President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. These are facts, gratifying in the highest sense, inasmuch as such places filled by native-born Canadians is an evidence of the progress of our age and in this not the least uninteresting of the colonies of the British Empire.

Let me here remark that in my humble opinion the very first step for a student of medicine is *the acquirement* of a good general education prior to entering upon the study of the profession. This has been found a difficulty in the past, but through varied educational facilities now at the disposal of the youths of our country, a good practical education, embracing classics and literature, can be acquired. It is to be hoped the day is not far distant when those entering on the study of medicine will be required to take the degree of B.A. 'Tis true the professions are becoming crowded, and, consequently, those who wish to