

already experienced the solicitude we feel to thoroughly equip you for the battle of life, and to render you capable of filling honorable positions. You have got over the difficulties of freshmen, and have acquired that insight into technicalities which will enable you to appreciate and understand the lectures. Some of you have already passed one or more examinations, which, before passing, appeared to be difficult; but which, being duly prepared, you have found comparatively easy. Persevere, and the same result will follow whenever you shall present yourselves for examination. I trust that the long vacation just ended has not lessened the zeal which you have shown hitherto, but that you now return with energies recuperated to carry you onwards to the end. To those whom we now meet for the first time I would say that it is a pleasure to enroll you as students. The good report of former pupils has induced you to cast in your lot with us, and I am confident that you will not be disappointed, for in the future you will remember with satisfaction the lessons which have been taught you here.

The subject of your studies must now occupy your attention. The period of your novitiate required by this University before graduation, is four years. One of which may be under the tuition of a regular practitioner, the remainder in attendance on lectures. This is the usual custom in this country. I am aware that in some cases in this province this period has been abbreviated, and men have graduated and commenced practice who can hardly understand the rudiments of their profession. Such proceedings are disgraceful, if not criminal. The undeveloped talent of these men is wasted, they are an injury to the public who employ them, and a disgrace to the profession they have entered, tending, as they do, to lower the value of medical services. In this way the standard by which the public are guided is of such little value that we need not wonder that error should creep in, so that all sorts of pathys, like ill weeds, take root and flourish. That such is the result can be seen by observing the condition of medicine in the adjoining States. There, anyone can obtain a license or degree at very small cost either of time or mind, and the public are therefore at the mercy of every uneducated quack who is bold enough to start a theory or patent a medicine. The example of Ontario is a good one; all men are there obliged to pass a central examination on subjects which are requisite, no matter what practice may be followed, the result being the exclusion from that province of the uneducated charlatans which before swarmed

over from the United States. Let a student be thoroughly grounded in the fundamental branches of medicine and there need be no fear of his adopting crude ideas or absurd doctrines. It is true that qualified practitioners sometimes change their practice; but if you will enquire closely into the reasons you will find either that they were inferior as students or else are unprincipled enough to take advantage of popular errors. For you will always find people who are ready to try every new thing which presents itself; it may be hydropathy or Swedish movement, the so-called eclectic or homœopathy, each with such obtaining its time.

Gentlemen, the profession of medicine is one of the most honorable occupations which can be engaged in. The remnants of superstition and mystery which clung to it up to a very late period, have been gradually swept away, reason and observation assuming their place. The reproach which Bacon, in his time, threw upon it, that those who professed it did not seek for specific causes or remedies, is now taken away. We are in an age of incessant experiment, and medicine rests on a sound basis, with no limits to its expansion in the future. The brilliant discoveries of late years in physiology and pathology mark a new era in its history, and elevate it from an art into a science.

From the extensive additions thus made a greater amount of knowledge must be acquired by students than was necessary half a century ago, and subjects altogether new must now be studied ere you can be qualified to practice. The period of your studies, however, still remains the same, and is, in my opinion, altogether too short. Time is not allowed you to become properly qualified for practice, and I would like to see this period extended; but, as it is customary elsewhere to limit it as at present, we perforce must follow the custom. The present system is one of cramming, and many, I fear, leave the Universities of this country with very crude ideas in regard to medicine, these ideas often becoming oddities. To such, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Still, with the short time before you, much can be accomplished if you are methodical in your studies. Have an allotted time for each branch of study, and guard yourselves from falling into irregular habits. Above all, remember the commandment: "Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work." Follow this closely, for it is a very erroneous practice attempting to fill up the lost time of the week by working on the seventh. It is a physiological as well as Divine law, and its neglect is