

the world ; territories with a climate of the most varied and salubrious character, containing vast riches and unbounded possibilities for the present and for future generations ; territories which are rapidly increasing in population by natural increment and by the yearly addition of many thousands of settlers from other lands—when we consider all this, it well concerns us to ask, “What has been the record of the medical profession during this time?” It has been a time of wonderful activity in all the centres of learning : a time during which an almost entire revolution has been wrought in the science of medicine, and in the methods adopted for the teaching of the same : a time during which the keenest minds have been directed to the elucidation of innumerable problems in those sciences which form the basis of medical doctrine and practice—anatomy, physiology, biology and chemistry ; a time in which the whole practice of surgery has been changed, been based upon principles entirely new, but proved by the severest tests of experience to be founded upon unalterable laws—changes so great that the accomplished student of twenty years ago would find himself to-day committing the most egregious enormities and sinning perpetually against the first elements as now understood ; a time in which a generous rivalry has been kept up between the two great departments of medicine and surgery, and, great and startling as has been the progress in the latter, it is doubtful if the advances in the former have not been fully equal, or even greater. For, whilst Lister and his followers have abundantly proved to the world the enormous importance of what we now call “surgical cleanliness” (a truth till now never properly appreciated), Pasteur, Koch, and others, have been searching for the true cause and prevention of cholera, hydrophobia, and the other great scourges of mankind. Animalculæ life, and its bearing upon the diseases of man and animals, has assumed an importance heretofore undreamt of ; and the science of bacteriology has sprung at once into the forefront as an absorbing pursuit, already fruitful of wonderful results, and opening up a field for investigation of boundless extent, and affording endless scope for observation, thought and research !

A time in which preventive medicine has

begun to occupy the place to which its importance justly entitles it. Before this period, sanitary science was but in its infancy, sanitary laws were but little understood, and sanitary regulations seldom enforced. Now the questions of sanitary legislation attract the attention and occupy the minds of the highest statesmanship. The more civilized the country, the more widely is knowledge of public health matters disseminated, the more carefully are statistics collected, the greater the skill and talent enlisted to cope with the difficulties surrounding the sanitary legislator. In fact, there is now no better test of the intelligence and real civilization of a community than an estimation of the attention given to the enforcement of sanitary laws, and the degree of diffusion of sound sanitary knowledge.

A time in which the public have begun to appreciate the importance to themselves of having a constant supply of thoroughly educated young medical men—men learned in all the learning of the day—who, scattered throughout the land, may be ready to apply to them in their need all the resources of modern medicine. Wealthy laymen, acting upon this belief, have endowed hospitals and schools of medicine with funds sufficient to enable them to teach medicine as medicine should be taught. Bright examples of this are found in the great gifts to the Johns-Hopkins Hospital and University in Baltimore, and the munificent donations to the College of Physicians of New York. The same sentiment, doubtless, animated the generous donors of the endowment fund to McGill University, and the gentleman who has so much enhanced the teaching capability of the University of Toronto. Let us hope that these instances of far-seeing, public-spirited and open-hearted men, giving of their abundance for an object designed to be of service to the whole country, will not fail to direct many others to one way of doing much good in their generation.

It has been a time when the system of medical education has been undergoing a gradual change. The period opens with the old-fashioned medical school—a few professors, a large number of didactic lectures upon a few subjects—practical anatomy being the only branch taught in a truly demonstrative manner ; walking the hospitals beginning to be supplanted by some