

glory in saving than in operating, however skilfully or dexterously the operation may be performed; above all, we believe we have endeavoured to teach a hopeful trust in the tender mercies and restorative power of our kind nursing mother, the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, when aided, but not thwarted by art, in remedying accidents and arresting disease.

And here, gentlemen, I may be permitted to state, that though of late years we have been pleased to observe a higher standard of previous education in those commencing their medical studies, still we believe there is much room for improvement in this respect; and now there is not the same excuse as in former times for such neglect, as the higher schools and colleges abound in both sections of the Province. I would urge upon parents and guardians, who intend to educate their sons for any of the learned professions, not to be in any hurry fixing their choice before the mental powers have had time to develope themselves, and the tastes have in some degree been decidedly displayed. The employment to which the whole subsequent life is to be dedicated, which is to be its business, and ought as much as possible be its pleasure, should not be decided upon when the judgement is immature, and the higher mental capabilities are only beginning to manifest themselves. I believe that a course of education which will qualify a youth to commence, with advantage, the special study of any of the professions, should be followed up, at least, to the age of eighteen; the mind will then have had time to unfold itself, and its powers will be readily directed, with full intensity, to the special profession,—the heart as well as the head being engaged in its pursuit. A good knowledge of classics is universally acknowledged to be an essential part of the general training necessary before entering upon the study of medicine, without such knowledge, the very meaning of the terms, constantly employed in medical literature, would be incomprehensible to the student; but the chief importance of a classical education consists in this, that experience has proved the labor bestowed in its acquisition to be by far the best discipline for preparing the intellect for being advantageously employed upon any other subject.

An acquaintance with the physical sciences is now considered an essential part of a preliminary medical education, and, to the understanding the more exact among them, as Mechanics and Astronomy, a certain amount of Mathematics is necessary. Some knowledge of Zoology, Botany, Geology and Mineralogy, is now regarded as essential to any well-informed and liberally educated medical man, and Chemistry might, with great advantage, be studied as an elementary branch.