

To-day forms an epoch in the history of this institution in that this is probably the last opening lecture of the Medical Faculty to be delivered in this hall. Before the session is finished, we will have moved into the building which is now being erected to the north of this one and by transferring the work of the third and fourth years to it, the last step will have been taken to bring the whole body of medical students thoroughly in touch with University life. It is a step to which the friends of the Faculty and the University have long looked forward; for, although the University has no more loyal alumni than those in medicine, yet the separation of the final years has, to a certain extent, tended to cut them off from the University and its life, and has certainly tended to produce a separation between the men of the first and second and those of the third and fourth years.

At the very outset the founders of the Medical Faculty committed themselves to the position that the study of medicine required a thorough general scientific groundwork, especially in biology, and the erection of this building in 1890 was the first step towards properly providing for this; although for the three years prior to that date good work was done even with the insufficient equipment and cramped accommodation then available. It is peculiarly fitting, therefore, that the biological building should be closely associated with the development of the Faculty.

The effect of this care for the groundwork of medicine by the University authorities, is shown in the standing which its graduates have taken wherever they have gone; and the University herself has profited not only on the prosaic side of increased fees but also on the much more important one of a rapidly-growing body of loyal graduates, scattered from one end of the province to the other—graduates as loyal and perhaps more influential than any other body of her alumni.

For still another reason, it is fitting that the opening lecture in the Faculty of Medicine should be delivered in this building, because the fact that should be deeply impressed on you students who are entering for the first time the study of medicine, and upon you older men who have been engaged in it for a longer period, is that at bottom Medicine is a biological science, and that so long as during your student days or in later life in active practice, you pursue a biological method, in the study of the problems which you may have to face, so long will you be pursuing the study of scientific medicine; but when you drift away from that method, you are drifting towards a false empiricism and quackery. And perhaps, when now the Faculty of Medicine is to a certain extent passing from under the protecting wings of the Biological Department, it may be permitted to refer to one, who more than any other member of the University has directed the development of medical teaching in this country along true biological lines. I refer to the