

medicine in our country and generation, and I trust that the marks of our skill may not be indistinguishable in the rising edifice. The progress of scientific medicine in the recent past is the result very largely of the development of the science of biology which has done so much to establish medicine on a scientific basis.

Until the study of life in its elementary forms was rendered possible by modern instruments of precision, empiricism necessarily entered largely into all medical progress, and it was maintained as an opprobrium that medicine was no more than an enlightened empiricism. This is true, but it could not have been otherwise since, until the birth of biology as a science, medical knowledge had either to remain at a stand-still or to progress by a series of empirical jumps which sometimes left it in a more advanced state of usefulness, and sometimes failed to do so even in the slightest degree. Although empiricism in medicine has been such a laborious means of advancement, we must admit that it generally contained some grains of truth, and that when it failed to accomplish what was expected of it, the reason of the failure lay, not in the worthlessness of the efforts at progress, but in the difficulty of separating the grains of truth from the abundant chaff in which it was contained. Each new fashion, while it has contained some truth, has failed and given place to another little in advance, not because it contained no truth, but because the truth it did contain was incomplete. When, however, the study of biology was established on a scientific basis, medicine, which is but an applied science of biological doctrine, became less empirical and more scientific, and by the aid of physiology and pathology, which are the necessary sequence of biological investigation, has advanced to the present high and satisfactory position it occupies. The very fact that morbid processes are viewed and studied from a physiological standpoint, and are estimated and measured by the laws that govern elementary processes of life, renders it certain that the progress of the recent past and of the present is on surer lines and firmer foundation than ever before, and that the future of medicine will be the glorious sequel of the present, as the present is the glorious sequel of the past. It justifies the belief, that the advantages to the human race likely to accrue from the prosecution of medical studies and investigation pursued on these lines, will be far greater in the future than in the past, that physiology and pathology, which are but in their infancy, are destined to illuminate the dark places in medicine and reveal the true cause of much human suffering and premature death.

We are accustomed to regard with wonder the achievements of modern invention in the art of war, and to contemplate with amazement the perfected instruments of destruction that strengthen the hands of modern belligerents, but the general who advances to battle with all these at his command has no greater advantage over a barbarous foe than modern medical searchers after truth in the realms of disease have over their empirical brothers of the prebiological period. Possessing these advantages, and stimulated by this prospect, it is reasonable to suppose there will, in the near future, arise men whose investigations, beginning where those of Sanderson, Koch, Virchow, and Pasteur leave off, will be equally brilliant and equally conducive to human happiness and longevity. The country that produces these men will be the country that affords the best medical education to those entering the profession, and that most facilitates original investigation for those who have chosen that field of labor. No physician in this country worthy of the profession to which he belongs can be indifferent to the position Canada shall occupy in the honorable and honored competition in which so many are and will be engaged.

The future of the medical profession in this as in any other country will largely depend upon the natural ability and the mental and moral training in childhood and youth of those entering its ranks; so that in considering any scheme for the creation of a high standard of medical qualification, domestic training and the plan of education pursued in public schools must be recognized as bearing an important part.

It has been said that poets are born and not made—a saying that is not untrue when applied to medical men, for a combination of mental and moral qualities which cannot be wholly acquired enters into the character of every great physician. It is cause for regret that greater discrimination is not exercised in directing young men in the choice of a business or profession, and that convenience and not natural aptitude should frequently determine a young man's course in life. There are so many examples of men rising from obscurity to great eminence in every vocation, that there has arisen a popular impression that all obstacles and natural defects can be compensated for, or can be overcome, by diligence and perseverance on the part of any aspiring youth. It would be wrong to underestimate the value of industry and high aspiration, but these, while they can improve all and can render mediocrity respectable, can never supply the place of genius. While it is impossible to create genius by any system of training, it is al-