

this time to following the practical courses originated this year for the first time in our University in the form of a summer session. And here I will remark that the institution of this summer session for practical courses and special series of demonstrations, was felt by the Faculty as imperatively called for and I feel that the appreciation accorded it, as shown by the unexpectedly large attendance, proves that its introduction has filled a want which was beginning to be felt. The number of subjects included in the study of medicine, has been for some years back steadily increasing. The standard of proficiency demanded in any of them has also been continuously raised. Now, the effect of all this has naturally been to magnify to a large extent the amount of technical knowledge it is absolutely necessary to obtain in order to pass the required examinations. To accomplish this necessitates the employment of much time in purely didactic teaching, with lectures and weekly examinations; and thus against his will, the student finds himself to some extent obliged to give all his energies to the attendance on these ~~and the mastering of their subject matter~~ to the exclusion of other more practical and therefore more interesting and ultimately instructive and truly educational subjects—those I mean in which he himself is the actual observer, receiving his knowledge directly from the application of his own senses, such as practical physiology, practical chemistry, practical clinical work, ophthalmology, &c. The time of the student now during the winter session, is every moment so occupied by the acquirement of what he soon will need for the satisfaction of the examiners that what does not immediately bear on this is only too apt to be relegated to a later season, and then perhaps come ultimately never at all. And it is well to remember that science begins with the careful observation of facts, and ends with the systematic statement of what is observed, and this is the order and the way in which the student is most likely to be allured into studious habits and into a scientific frame of mind. Gentlemen it does not require that I should expand into any panegyric upon the profession of medicine. Your presence here to-day of itself, is proof sufficient that you deem that noble profession one worthy