

only refer indirectly to the wolves in sheep's clothing who disgrace us, it is because I might be tempted to use unparliamentary language, and because I know that, in this at least, we think alike.

In speaking of our responsibilities, I might remind you that no men are more generally the recipients, willingly or unwillingly, of family secrets than ourselves. I might expatiate on the sacredness of this and other trusts that weigh upon us, but again, gentlemen, I am pleased to feel that you must realise them as I hope I have striven to do. The character and honor of the profession is in our own hands, individually as well as collectively, and just in proportion as we strive to raise it in public estimation will be the measure of our success. Since, then, we are alone its custodians, we cannot afford to debase or let others debase the character of our honorable calling, by trading upon its name; a name that, in the light of the recent achievements of surgery, never stood higher in the world than now; a name that we confidently expect to shine still more brightly in the achievements of the near future.

To those who have watched the progress of medical education in Ontario during the past two decades I need hardly enlarge on our advance along the lines laid down in the third of the headings under our consideration: "The elevation of the standard of medical education." The candidate for matriculation twenty years ago was expected to be able to read and write, and that none too correctly. The need of improvement in this respect soon made itself manifest to those engaged in matriculation, and the present examination is a fair test of a man's preliminary education. I do not say that it is perfect, but we are rapidly advancing in the right direction, and I hope to live to see the day when medical and law students will be obliged to take a University degree before entering on their purely professional studies. There can be no question of the after benefit of a thorough education, and one reason, in my opinion, why more of our men do not contribute to the medical press, is that they feel weak in their ground work. While the improvement in the standard of preliminary education has been decided, although not all we could wish, the progress in purely medical training has been so rapid that the

student of the present time finds himself in an enviable position, when compared with that of his less fortunate brother of a few years ago. The attention given to clinical instruction is a credit to Ontario institutions. The teachers are apt, competent, and eager to impart knowledge. The wards of our hospitals afford abundant material for the learner, who has only himself to blame if he does not make use of it.

In addition to our present clinical advantages we shall shortly have another hospital, thanks to the munificent gift of the late Senator Macdonald. I hope his generous act will prove an incentive to others. There is room for some of our wealthy citizens to follow the example set them in Montreal, by joining together to endow a hospital that shall be a credit to our city, and materially increase the facilities of acquiring a medical knowledge. There is no doubt, gentlemen, that our meetings have done much to stimulate the advances that I have referred to as being desirable, or as already in part accomplished, and the larger the society grows the more widely will its influence be felt.

To proceed to the fourth object of the society, "The promotion of public health." The growth of this branch of our science has done and is doing a vast amount of good in the Province, while, from another point of view, it has undoubtedly aroused public interest in our behalf, and added to the dignity of the profession. It teaches the young physician that his first duty is not the curing of disease, but rather its prevention. It may seem paradoxical that we should use our best efforts to minimise the existence of the very thing, the treatment of which we have chosen to supply our means of livelihood. Well, gentlemen, we can, at least, in the pride of self-satisfaction, meditate on the example of our legal friends who, when we have the misfortune to consult them, far from pouring oil on the troubled waters of litigations, are not averse to advising us to go on with our case.

Joking apart, this prevention of disease is but one example of the many noble, self-denying acts of the honourable physician. We find more gratification in warning the public of their danger beforehand, than in treating them for some dread disease.

Through the length and breadth of the Province we have established our health offices