

CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Valedictory Address to the Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, Victoria University.* Delivered on behalf of the Medical Faculty, by WILLIAM CANNIFF, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., Professor of Surgery.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES,—Along the pathway of life we find placed here and there events of more than ordinary importance—events which may change our course in one way or another, or which are as eminences from which we may not only obtain a more extended view, but proceed with greater ease and success. Our whole life is a series of marches, each of which prepares for that which is to follow. The road we travel is like an ascent up a mountain, the summit of which is reached by successively gaining one eminence after another. We graduate from infancy to childhood, from childhood to adolescence, from adolescence to early manhood, and thence to mature life, when the full development of the body and mind is reached. Then, again, the mind graduates in strength and power as days and years add to the stock of knowledge and culture. In education there is ever an upward bent, as the student proceeds from the alphabet and passes one elevation after another toward the summit of his Parnassus. There is a common road which many travel, but there comes a stage in the journey when special routes will be selected. Those who desire to become learned in the law turn into one path; those who seek to unfold the mysteries of nature, in another; and he who would master the science of medicine turns into another, and pursues his course. Whatever be the way chosen, the student will still find a hill to ascend—from the A B C of the science until a point is gained, when he ceases to be a tyro. Then, no longer an apprentice, he is called to discharge the duties of a master-workman.

You, young gentlemen, whom I address to-day, have reached this important stage in your educational life. To-day marks an important event with you. Ceasing to be boys you assume the duties of men. No