

and a Central Board at Ottawa. If the medical men who have seats in the Federal and Provincial Legislatures would earnestly ventilate and advocate in the Commons and the Senate questions of vital statistics, registration of diseases, central and provincial boards of health, etc., we should very soon have them carried. Public health must yet constitute an important department of State, when peoples and governments realize that the prevention of disease is at least as important a duty of government as the protection of property. As members of society, endeavour to play your part in a manner worthy of the body to which you belong. Take a personal interest in the important questions and movements of the day, whether political or social, religious or secular. You are citizens as well as physicians. It is very creditable to the medical men of Canada that it cannot be said of them, as it has lately been of their brethren in the mother country, that by not offering themselves for parliament they “exhibit great narrowness of mind and want of sympathy with general, social and political questions.” In our country many medical men are found devoting their time and abilities to legislation in the Senate and Commons of the Dominion and of its several Provinces. The Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, the President of the Council of the same Province, the Minister of Railways in the Federal Government, are all physicians. Whether discharging the duties of members of parliament, if such shall be the lot of any of you, or the not less useful functions of physicians, bear constantly in mind that you are members of a profession *primarily* devoted to the *treatment* of disease, but which, in harmony with its genius, charges itself with the duty of informing society how to *prevent* and *guard against* disease.

To the *profession*, of which you have this day become members, you have many responsibilities, only some of which can be alluded to now. Medicine is one of the learned professions, and certainly, when one recalls the many departments of natural science comprised in its curriculum, it truly deserves the title. Set out in your career, then, with the determination to be versed in knowledge—general as well as medical. It is also called a *liberal* profession—that is, its members are required to avoid