

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XIX.

MAY, 1891.

No. 11.

Original Communications.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE GRADUATES OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
CONVOCATION, APRIL 1, 1891.

By G. P. GIRDWOOD, M.D.,
Professor of Chemistry, McGill University.

Gentlemen Graduates,—The ancestral acres unscored by the plough have been left by you. You have not been allured by the dust and excitement of the Olympian games, with all the pomp and circumstance of war. In vain old Neptune has spread before you the great and varied enticements of a "life on the ocean wave." The blandishments of the forum and the quibbles of legal fiction, with all its subtleties, its narrowing down of argument to the one hypothesis, have had no attraction for you. The mysteries, superstitions and narrow bigotries of theologians need exponents of a different metal to that of which you are made. Instead, you have registered yourselves as students of Minerva, as worshippers at the shrine of Hygeia, and have but just now been admitted as brethren in the priesthood of the temple of Æsculapius. With truth, wisdom and health for your science, and healing for the practice of your art, I wonder not at your choice. The varied sciences you have to cultivate gives you a breadth of study and basis upon which to form your opinions possessed by no other profession. Like a man engaged in mixed farming, his knowledge of the art is greater than if he confine his energies to one kind of produce only, so as you press