

to hasten the day when no man shall think of exercising the right to withhold himself or his family from a yearly physical examination by a reputable physician, to determine any tendency to disease or the presence of disease itself. I am not blind to the fact that this innovation can lead to abuses, for it is impossible to eliminate at once from our profession the alarmist, the surgical tinker, and the obsessed drug giver.

In common with the profession in the republic to the south of us there are problems here affecting the public no less than the profession. These demand solution. Already there has been inaugurated at Washington, during the past month, a movement to establish a non-teaching college analogous to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, with the aim of giving higher degrees in surgery. The bearer of such a degree will have, from competent authorities, the stamp of approval declaring him capable of doing good surgery. American surgery, recognizing that their evils are likewise our evils, has most kindly invited well-known, reputable Canadian surgeons to become founders with themselves of the projected college. Not only will this college demand of its graduates technical knowledge and operative skill, but, above all, honesty and unquestionable moral character. A movement of this kind is intended to abolish needless and abusive surgery together with its invariably associated dichotomous fee. To do this effectually, those holding such degree must have public support and sympathy. Is not the time ripe when we should receive higher degrees in Canada, not from Great Britain and the United States, but from a Canadian institution, founded by the Parliament of this Dominion preferably at Ottawa? The ambition of ninety-five per cent. of the recent graduates in medicine is to become surgeons, and in many cases life's efforts are directed to this end. Matters have come to such a pass that the recent graduate thinks of disease only in surgical terms, the medical side is "a despised weed." We need competent medical men and competent obstetricians just as badly as we need competent surgeons, that is, we need men in these departments who have the knowledge of specialists. There is too much tendency to accept mediocre attainment in the two former, and demand thorough attainment in the latter. Given a standard high degree in these subjects, along with publicity of their meaning, we would find plenty in the profession who would put forth continued efforts at self-education for their attainment. There is a dearth of competent men in many departments of medicine and an overcrowding of the profession with mediocre ability.