

Original Communications.

Introductory Lecture to the Fourth Session of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bishop's College. Delivered on the 1st October, 1874, by Richard A. KENNEDY, A.M., M.D., C.M., Professor of Anatomy.

Mr. Dean and Gentlemen,

The progressive march of time has brought us to this, the commencement of the fourth session of the Medical Faculty of our University; and as it is customary to re-open our classes with a general introductory lecture, my colleagues have deputed me to address you on this occasion. In their name I welcome you to-day. A welcome extended not alone to students, but also including those former students and kind friends who now honor us with their presence.

Three years of existence have been accorded us, with a success seldom attained by a new school, and which might be termed extraordinary. When I reflect upon the past, I feel thankful that the many difficulties which beset us in the beginning have been overcome, and that our efforts have enabled us to place this school upon a sure and sound basis, with a hopeful promise of increased usefulness in the future. The struggle from which we are emerging has not been without its beneficial effect; for it caused us to measure our strength, and spurred us on to increased effort, so that nothing might remain undone to give our students a good professional standing. Already has our existence been beneficial to the interests of the profession, and many who formerly were lukewarm or opposed to us, have become our friends and wish us prosperity. The narrow-minded and illiberal partizans of other schools predicted failure on our part, and judging us by their own standard, slandered the capabilities of our professors. Our standing to-day proves them in error, and we can claim for this school a position second to none and superior to many in the Dominion.

During the three sessions now passed, sixty-one students have attended our classes. Some of these having previously attended the classes of other Universities, required only one year with us to become qualified for examination, while others have completed, or are completing, the full term required of them. Of these sixty-one students, twenty-seven have graduated and are now practising, some in the United States, but the major part in this Province. A few have left us, their circumstances preventing

them from attending and not from reasons of dissatisfaction. Indeed, it is gratifying for us to know that our students return, feeling that here they can do best, and not only do they return, but almost invariably they induce others to come also. This fact alone speaks volumes. Through the changes which have occurred in our staff, some of our graduates now occupy honorable positions in this faculty, and I trust that not one of them will ever have reason to complain of their alma mater either neglecting or ignoring their claim to consideration. Whenever it shall be our misfortune to have a vacancy, that vacancy will be filled according to the principle which we have adopted, and he that is found most able to fill the post will obtain it. In this way we hope always to maintain the efficiency of our chairs, and not merely to have them filled by favorites or those incompetent to the task. Our college is now complete in its appliances; we have a large building with light and airy lecture rooms. Our classrooms for practical anatomy and chemistry are now replete with everything requisite for the prosecution of these branches; and we have taken a step in advance of any other institution in the Dominion, by establishing a course in practical physiology. In hospital facilities we are on the same standing as the other schools; and the addition of a maternity department, in full working order, completes the requisites for graduation. I may state, in addition, that the opportunities for medical education in this city are greater than elsewhere in our country, we have the largest field of hospital, dispensary, and other practice; and I may add, without any exaggeration, that this school has advantages over other schools in its larger staff, allowing a greater division of labor, and increasing the energy brought to bear on our lectures.

I will now address my remarks more directly to those gentlemen who will be with us during the coming months. It is with no slight feeling of anxiety that we again resume our teaching, for we feel the responsibilities attached to our position, and that the welfare of others as well as your own depends upon the success of our efforts to fit you to fill your place in our profession. We will guide you in the way of your studies, let it be your duty to take advantage of our guidance. Do not let the remark of Voltaire be hereafter said of you, that "the doctors poured medicine of which they knew little, into a body of which they knew nothing." To those whom we have had the pleasure of instructing heretofore, I need not tender words of promise, you have