

the younger members, some of whom may possibly up to the present time, have not had their early visions of the practice of their art proving a royal road to both fame and fortune realized, but on the contrary, so far in their experience have found it to be a hard step-mother rather than an *alma mater*, and at times inclined to doubt the wisdom of their choice of the field for engaging in the battle of life, may make such topics, themes for discussion, more particularly if they should happen to take into consideration the large yearly addition to aspirants for practise from the issue of new-fledged doctors from the numerous medical colleges both in the Dominion of Canada and from every State in the Union. Such doubters, if any present, may be fitly reminded of the lines—

"No pent up Utica confines our powers,
But a boundless continent is ours;"

also of the no longer fabulous land of Cathay of mediæval European conception, but the vast modern China and outlying islands of Tipangu, now known under the name of Japan, that Columbus vainly sought by sailing westward. For restless and adventurous spirits then, "these fresh fields and pastures new" may be sought as affording ample scope for the display of their knowledge both of curative and preventive medicine.

For less mercurial spirits I would counsel patience, perseverance, and study. In the cities they will always find a *clientèle* among the poor, and we have on record the statement of the illustrious Boerhave that he found them his best patients, for they had God for their master; and history tells us that after attaining to a great age, he left, notwithstanding the large portion of his time given to the poor, a very large fortune.

I have also to remind them that they have only to look back a very short time in the past to many places in this Dominion of Canada, that in their knowledge have rapidly progressed from mere hamlets to towns and cities, and the barren, undrained lands—consequently unhealthy—in the surrounding country which have become the abodes of a healthy and vigorous population employed in manufacturing pursuits.

From many of his medical acquaintances who have attained the age ordinarily allotted to man, an experience may be gained similar to that of Sir James Rawlinson, who in his work on engineering, says: "Within the last half century,

draining and town sewerage have ripened into a science. From rude beginnings, insignificant in extent, and often injurious in the first instance, systematic sewerage of towns and draining of lands have become of the first importance, land has thus in many instances more than doubled its value. Town sewerage, with other social regulations, have contributed to prolonging life from five to fifty per cent. as compared with previous rates in the same district. Agues and typhoid fevers are reduced in the frequency of their occurrence. Since 1840 an annual mortality in English towns of 44 in 1,000 had been reduced to 27, an annual mortality of 30 to 20, and even in some places as low as 15." Similar favorable results may *cæteris paribus* be gathered from the Vital Statistics of the Dominion of Canada, and the younger members of our profession may, I think, rest assured that if their lives are spared to enable them, like a few of us, to look back fifty or sixty years, they will have a far greater amount of progress to chronicle than even the wonderful changes that have taken place in our day, a few of which I propose making brief reference to in the present paper.

The transcontinental railway from Halifax to Vancouver is opening up enormous tracts of country that may in less than fifty years become the abode of millions, and making the most ample allowance for the diminished occupation that may possibly be the outcome of the practise of medicine of the future, namely preventive, medicine, which Dr. Benjamin Ward Richardson, and other optimists, consider as destined in a great measure to supplement, if not to supplant, curative medicine; making also due allowance for the large abstraction of professional work from the all-round or general practitioner, by the yearly increasing number of specialists, of fair lady graduates, and of irregular practitioners without number, there will always remain for his share of curative practise a larger domain than has been calculated on by recent pessimist writers, viz., that only immediately surrounding the umbilicus. I would say then, pause before you determine on rushing to countries where you would have to devote a year or more to the acquirement of at least a conversational knowledge of the language of the inhabitants, and then perhaps so far as large professional emoluments are concerned, find it a barren soil from Dan to Beersheba.