

nosis or to elucidate an obscurity, the prejudice now existing against them in the public mind would to a great degree disappear. Let rural practitioners who underrate their opportunities of contributing to the general fund of medical knowledge remember that Jenner, McDowell and Köch were not metropolitan physicians, and were unknown to fame until their great discoveries, wrought out by diligent study and observation, placed them among the great benefactors of mankind. Observation and reflection are the parents of discovery, and never fail to produce their offspring, although the gestation may be long and the labor hard. Every truth so revealed is like a lantern, the light of which may be turned on the dark places of our field of investigation and new truths stand clear to our mental vision, and we walk boldly and safely on, using each new thought to illumine the obscurity that surrounds and precedes us.

The building up of a science is a slow and laborious process, and facts must be supplied by a multitude of workers. The scholar who deciphers the cuneiform inscriptions of ancient Babylon or the hieroglyphics of Egypt, and contributes to our knowledge of these nations, must be aided and preceded in his work by the archæologist who discovers and the laborer who unearths these imperishable records of past events. So in the building up of medical science, the humblest worker is not to be despised, for his contributions may be and often are essential, but to be available, his thoughts and observations must be recorded, that they may be weighed and winnowed by those suited to the task.

All who have read the lectures of Murchison on "Functional Diseases of the Liver," of Roberts on "The Digestive Ferments," or of our own Osler on "Malignant Endocarditis," must be impressed by the great impetus given to practical medicine by these, and will need no arguments to convince them of the desirability of the endowment of similar lectureships here. From a literary and scientific standpoint, the advantages accruing to the profession from such lectures would be important, but of even more importance would be the encouragement afforded to the more gifted and aspiring of our own Canadian physicians