

At the last meeting of the British Medical Association in Canada one fact stood out glaringly, and reluctant as we were to admit it, still the unpleasant truth remained. Canadians and Americans, and we had the best of both present, did not compare with the old world product either in general culture, ability to express themselves clearly, or in the little refinements of speech and manner, which go so far in the make-up of the physician as we should like him to be. These may seem small points, and yet they stand for more than may be looked for on the surface. In this country of hustle and bustle and haste to achieve results, we are prone to build our superstructures before the foundations are truly and properly laid, and if many of our castles have tottish walls the reason is not far to seek.

In Queen's, for example, it seems almost criminal to have medical students within easy reach of a culture that is in some respects unique, and yet so few taking advantage of the opportunity. I am quite sure that those who have had the foresight to drink deeply of the fountains of learning supplied by such Professors as Watson, Dupuis, Shortt, Cappon, Dyde, McNaughton, Marshall and others, go out better equipped than those who have been content to pass directly from the Collegiate to the Medical School. That this culture will tell in your future, only those who have the retrospective point of view can show you.

I do not say that these British visitors had anything the best of it when it came to a consideration of hard facts, but they certainly had a more cultivated and polished manner, and took a broader view in general of things discussed, and in this way approached more nearly to the standard we must set up.

Perhaps I am too strong a believer in the theory that the physician who makes the best mental impression on his patient is the most successful physician, but when I think of the men who have achieved the most satisfactory results, my theory appears to be a fact. These men have had the attributes referred to, and they have been practically the same in all. If we consider Howard, Workman, Osler and Reeve, Canadians, we have had few peers in any country. What do we find? Natural ability (genius if you will) and kindness of heart, sup-