

gret that I learned of the abolition of the Medical Faculty. This act was the work of politicians and educational reformers before I reached Canada; and it is better perhaps that I should not now enter into a discussion of the reasons assigned for a procedure which left the University with the power of giving degrees in medicine, but excluded it from all share in the training for graduation. But at this comparatively remote date from an Act of the Legislature of a former generation, before the Dominion of Canada was called into being, I may perhaps, without risk of offence to any surviving representative of the moving spirits of that transitional period, revert to a condition of things on which I looked well nigh forty years ago with wondering eyes. A medical man of exceptional ability had unfortunately turned aside from the ordinary duties of professional life to minister to the diseases of the State, and apply a radical cure to the body politic. After failure in an attempted employment of the most drastic measures as a political elixir of life, a new turn in the wheel of fortune placed him in the influential position of a member of the Canadian Executive. It thus fell to the share of a doctor of medicine to play the part of surgeon in prescribing restoratives for the peculiar ailments with which old King's College was afflicted, and, from whatever motive, the political M.D. insisted on amputation of a limb.

A school of science is not necessarily dependent on medicine, but from the early days of the famous Arabian Schools of Science of Salerno and Cordova, the two have gone hand in hand, and chemistry and biology have derived their best stimulus from such conjoint action. But happily in those early years of the remodelled University, the medical students still sought in Prof. Croft's lecture-room and laboratory the indispensable chemical instruction which could not then be had elsewhere. It was at a time when the opponents of national unsectarian education persistently clamored for a division of the endowment, and, with this object in view, perseveringly reiterated their demands for returns of the number of students in attendance. It would be ungrateful in me to forget the yeoman service there rendered to us by the abolished Medical Faculty, who thus helped to swell our meagre ranks, and so tided us over the critical

years of reorganization. *Velut arbor ævo* is the motto attached to our University crest of a luxurious maple tree, but the seed had scarcely been cast into the ground when, instead of a young sapling, we were called on to produce a full grown giant of the forest, under the shadow of which the new generation might sport itself and gather in ripened fruit. The first missionaries to Tahiti, in striving to superadd some of the elements of civilization to their ethical instructions, taught the natives to plant corn and beans, but they looked in vain for their harvest, till they discovered that the impatient natives, like our wise legislators, went by night and plucked up the grain to learn how it was growing. It is not without a grim sense of humor that I recall the service rendered to us in our hour of need by the moribund Medical Faculty, for I was then starting as Professor of History with one of my classes numbering two students. Happily I was not a medical professor, but how I and my chair escaped the amputating knife is a marvel.

But a review of the Department of Biology, or Natural History, as it is styled, in those same critical years, abundantly illustrates how prejudicial the abolition of the Medical Faculty proved to that important branch of scientific education. It was not without difficulty that a niche for it was found in the Arts course. It seemed the least in demand of all the sciences; and for years the removal of its professor would have very slightly affected the work of the University. Now, on the contrary, with the stimulus which the restored faculty has supplied, and the ability and zeal with which the joint work of the chairs of biology and physiology are carried on, the subject has become a popular one with the students of Arts, and for the first time is fully recognized as an important branch of general education. The progress thus achieved has been accompanied with demands for adequate appliances and accommodation, which have been responded to on a scale that excites the envy of sister sciences. At the inauguration of the new building for this department, Prof. Osler, of Baltimore, and Prof. Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, were alike hearty in their sympathetic congratulations, and we recall with gratification the high terms in which Prof. Minot, of Harvard, expressed his estimation of Prof. Ramsay Wright as an in-