

year, as ever, were excellent, and full of good advice, the latter filled with beauty of expression, and ideas bordering quite on the æsthetic.

Somewhere we have read, that long ago—about the sixteenth century—the question of wearing a beard came in for grave consideration by the students. Happily now the embryo medico may adorn his peculiar type of beauty as he chooses, or perhaps let some *fin de siècle* Beatrice voice for his benefit, "He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man; and he that is more than a youth, is not for me; and he that is less than a man, I am not for him." But soon, seriously, the student takes up his work, and on through the years, with now and then an "exam." to give added spice, and a chance to use (in private) a few choice quotations not recorded in the Revised Version, then the "capping," and the knight of the scalpel emerges ready to decide the question, "Where shall I practise?" God help him! What is he to practise on? Is the profession of medicine, then, so overcrowded? It is, and it is not. It is overcrowded, as are all the professions, with those who are content to sit idly by and achieve nothing, and who say the world owes them a living anyhow. It is not any use for a man to enter the battle of life without thorough preparation; a few years at a mill shop of a medical school, the hanging out of a "shingle" on a crowded street corner, a "top" hat and gold-rimmed eye-glasses are indeed a sorry preparation for a life-work.

The knowledge gained by long years of study, and the clinical knowledge attained in many a hospital, and then the skill that fought and conquered the grim monster beside the bed, perchance of some pauper patient, is the graded school of experience, out of which the men graduated who *do NOT crowd* the profession to-day.

The practice of medicine is not a business, there are not any wares to be shown or praised; but as the merchantman spends his thousands in putting capital into his business, let the medical man remember he must put his capital into his brain; he must buy—experience.

Let the young doctor spend more time in travel before settling down to practice. There are the hospitals of Europe and America to visit. We hope that it soon will be considered requisite before entering for a medical course that all students should attain a Bachelor of Arts degree, and then after securing their much-desired M.D., go abroad for a couple of years. Would they then come