

whole subject so intimately associated with our welfare and prosperity before the *proper tribunal*.

The higher functions of medicine are now before you, which even extend beyond the healing of the sick, the instruction of the masses as to the means and methods by which disease may be prevented and death deprived of its supremacy and power. In the medical school of the present in Canada sanitary science is one of the chief subjects of study, and by this line of investigation we have hope that in the near future the contagious diseases, like scarlet fever, measles, cholera, will be effectually stamped out as small-pox is to-day. In the path of progressive medicine what a marked change has taken place, even in hospitalism, by which such dreaded diseases as puerperal fever and hospital gangrene have been in a great measure stamped out.

Science has much to do with the possible triumphs of sanitary reform. It is the art however, not the science alone; the doing, not exactly the knowing, that must take first rank in the medical work of life. It is, in fact, the actual bearing of the necessary training that directs the after life work of the physician. Doubtless there is great value in science, and in medical practice, such science as can be turned to practical account, which does far more to build up a professional reputation than *accumulated theories*, which cannot in any way be applied to the really great works of the physician. True science is ever humble, and great discoverers, such as Newton and Farady, were the humblest of men. How vigorous have been the attacks on Sir Joseph Lyster, the father of antiseptic surgery, and with what commendable spirit he upheld his position, marking beyond doubt the greatness of the man. It is well to be up and doing, keeping pace with every line of advance in our profession. True, we are living in an age remarkable for its discoveries. The younger members must not run away with the idea that the aged fathers in the profession are not likewise progressive. This is a reading age as well, in which current medical literature is almost superabundant, and old and young must labor and continue to work in order to keep anything like pace with the progress of science. The affiliation of the various

sciences, by the present change in the medical department, does away with the isolated form in which matters were previously. Thus the different sciences take, notwithstanding the diversity of their objects, one and the same development. The one series of ideas brightens and fructifies mental power, the other tends to promote health, strength and general systematic vigour.

When a student graduates what course should he adopt in order to insure public confidence and gain a practice? When he has selected the place, when he has decided to pursue his professional work, there are points of the greatest possible importance, to which he should turn the closest attention. 1st, Study carefully the physical character of the city or country section in which he resides; as to soil, drainage, water supply, food supply, public and private school, epidemics, epidemics and all such influences. Once he has familiarized himself on these points, he is then in a position to give confidence to those he may be fortunate enough to attend professionally. During the past few years the Ontario Government, through the Board of Health Department, has accomplished much in the line of public sanitation, and through energetic exertions the death rate in this province has undoubtedly been reduced. A move is now on foot to establish a "Health Institute" at Ottawa for the Dominion, however such is at present in the incipient stage of development, the only specific information from the Dominion Government being the mortuary statistics, issued monthly by the Department of Agriculture. In time we anticipate more energetic action in this direction, as nothing tends more to advance the interests of the public at large than what concerns public health.

Another point of great importance is the study of *the influence* the present system of education is producing on the germinal intellectual power which must in time guide and direct the best interests of our Dominion. The great effort at present is towards a species of hot house culture, as far as education is concerned. The multiplication of subjects, even with the pliant and undeveloped childlike brains, in the very formative process, becomes a serious problem and one which cannot be too carefully studied out and directed accord-