

seized upon by the daily press and carried from one end of the world to the other. Indeed, the general public appear to have become so familiar with the work of bacteriologists, that I am informed on good authority that when a North-West cowboy wishes to use a term of derision that will make his companion feel infinitely small, he calls him a "microbe." However, this public interest in "things medical" is not of recent date, but, on the contrary, it has existed ever since the art of healing emerged from the realms of mythology. Herodotus tells us that so great an interest was taken in disease by the Chaldeans and Babylonians that, when a person was taken ill, the sick one was carried into the market-place, and no one was allowed to pass by him without inquiring into the nature of his illness. The passage reads as follows: "Then those who passed by the sick person conferred with him about the disease, to discover whether they themselves had ever been afflicted with the same, or had seen others so afflicted." Only those who had suffered were allowed to prescribe for the sick, and thus we see that in the early history of medicine the people were governed by the motto, "*Experientia docet.*" Ancient records teach us that the Grecians adopted a similar practice until the priests combined medicine with religion, and ascribed their powers to the god Æsculapius. The Grecian priests erected temples where they met, and not only treated the sick, but discoursed upon the medical topics of the day, and these temples of Æsculapius corresponded to our present hospitals and medical colleges. They subsequently established scholastic centres in various parts of the civilized world, and surrounded medical teaching with the same mystery and superstition that for so long a time enveloped the profession of theology. Gradually and mainly through the instrumentality of Hippocrates, medicine was placed upon a more rational and scientific basis, and he is justly considered one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. . . .

Without boasting I may say, that in Ontario to-day we have as complete a system of medical education, and as strict an observance of medical ethics, as can be found anywhere else, and it is with the view of making these still more perfect that I intend commenting upon them to-day.

Certainly a good educational system will not of itself guarantee first-class doctors, for time alone can bring us the large population that affords such ample material for clinical study existing in the hospitals of large European and American cities. Nevertheless sufficient hospital accommodation may now be found in our larger cities and even smaller places, such as Brantford, Guelph, Stratford, Belleville, and Brockville, are possessed of well equipped institutions for the reception of the sick.

I would also venture to assert, that nowhere else is such a large amount of self-denying zeal shown by medical practitioners in order to properly prepare themselves for their duties towards their patients by keeping abreast with the latest advances and improved methods of treatment. Every spring witnesses a steady stream of young doctors journeying eastward to England and the Continent, in order to enrich their store of medical knowledge by observing the methods adopted by the great master-minds in medicine. Another contingent wend their way towards the south, for the purpose of sharing the rich harvest awaiting them at the clinics in New York, and other large American cities. These young men have already spent four years in the pursuit of their medical studies, and it redounds to their credit that they are willing to add another year or more to their collegiate life before they begin actual practice in Ontario. Besides those mentioned, there is also another class, including older practitioners, who leave their homes in either town or country, and almost annually visit one of the great medical centres to refresh their memories, and to witness the actual technique of new and improved operations.

All honor, I say, to such men who are willing to sacrifice so much time and money for the public weal, few other countries can produce an equal amount of self-enforced post-graduate education. . . .

There are two questions which are worthy of your consideration upon an important occasion like the present, when our members are gathered together from all parts of the Province for the discussion of mutual interest.

1st. With regard to the non-registration of British Diplomas, I consider that a mistake was made when this legislation was brought into force, regardless of the scientific standing and