

contended by some that the tendency of the age is to pay too little attention to the practical, especially in therapeutics, or in other words, that we cultivate the science of medicine at the expense of the art. I believe that there is sometimes some foundation for such a contention; and I myself have witnessed consultations by very able men, where over an hour was spent in making out a diagnosis, and about two minutes consumed in the discussion of the treatment to be pursued. Perhaps there is not as yet in this country much danger of becoming too scientific, and from this cause not sufficiently practical; but I think there is at the present day a great danger of our students becoming sceptical about the virtues of medicines; and I consider it a grave misfortune for any young man to commence the practice of medicine without a lively and intelligent faith in the remedies he prescribes. If he possesses not such faith, he is less apt to become imbued with that enthusiasm which invariably leads to success, and he is less likely to inspire that confidence among his patients which is so necessary for their sake as well as his own. If all I have said on this subject is true, and I think there can scarcely be any doubt about it, the inevitable conclusion follows, that it is not safe to neglect anything in your course, whether it be scientific or practical in its nature. If, however, I were allowed to suggest any omission on your part, I would ask you to refrain in the future from indulging in any midnight promenades up Yonge Street with your friends the Bobbies. I can hardly think them advisable in any respect, notwithstanding those great *moral benefits* which, under such circumstances, the policemen must derive from their association with medical students. By the way, it is said that rather an interesting episode happened one evening, not a hundred years ago, when a student of this city, while walking arm in arm with a policeman, asked the latter if people ever mistook him for a post and tied a horse to him, to which Bobby replied, not yet, but it might come to that, as he now had an ass fastened to him.

Before concluding, I think I may safely congratulate those students here present upon their choice of a profession. While it is, without doubt, a laborious and exacting one, it, at the same time, presents as many and as varied opportunities for usefulness as any occupation under the sun. While you may not be able to accumulate vast fortunes, you may at least obtain a respectable competency, and save something besides for the necessities of old age. May such be your experience, one and all! Your responsibilities will be great and serious, and you must assume them to their fullest extent as soon as you become settled in practice. At any moment such an emergency may arise that the life of a mother, a father, a darling child, some fondly loved one, may depend upon your sound judgment and prompt action. May you acquire a fund of both scientific and practical knowledge, which will always correctly guide your conduct in such momentous emergencies. Your chances of observing human nature, while studying patients as well as their diseases, will be ever continuous; and you will often find the apparently genial, affable and generous society man transformed into a selfish churl at his own fireside. On the other hand, you may find the man who is thought by the world to be cold and stern, changed in his own home to a cheerful, fond and considerate husband and father. You may find a frail woman at times as weak as water, and yet, when the life of a loved one becomes endangered, she may exhibit, through long and anxious weeks, powers of endurance and physical strength entirely unknown to ordinary giants. May you be keenly and wisely observant at all times, but may you use the knowledge thus obtained solely for the benefit of your patients. In your daily work as a "family physician," you must of necessity be admitted into the houses of those under your charge on terms of greater intimacy than ordinary friends, and you must learn much given to you in confidence which is not intended for the outside world. May Heaven preserve you from making any improper use of such privileges and confidences; may you love your profession above all earthly things; may you be filled with a zealous enthusiasm which will never know any discouragement; may kind Providence give you the strength, courage and the perseverance to overcome all obstacles; may you earn the gratitude of your patients, which is better than gold; and finally, may prosperity ever attend you and yours.

TOMMY GRAY.

A tom-cat sits upon the garden fence,  
And warbles wildly to its mate—  
"Oh! when the world has gone to bed,  
I love to sit and mew-till-late."

But whilst that cat did sit and sing,  
Up springs a boarder mad with hate,  
Who shoots that cat to fiddle-strings;  
He also loves to mu-til-ate.—*Tech.*

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### RECENT CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR.—At a meeting of the Senate held on November 25th, a committee consisting of Drs. Oldright, Richardson and Fulton was appointed to consider the question of practical examinations in forensic chemistry and hygiene. It is, however, only with the former subject the writer here proposes to deal. On reference to the latest medical

curriculum, we find that physiological chemistry is required at the second professional, and forensic chemistry at the final examination. It might be interesting to the laity, and, indeed, to the great majority of the medical profession, to know what is included under these high-sounding names. With regard to the former, I believe I am strictly correct, having taken the course, when I say that the only thing of any importance to the ordinary practitioner included under physiological chemistry, is an analysis of urine, normal and diseased, which any one with an ordinary knowledge of chemistry can accomplish in a few lessons, and yet the School of Practical Science demands a fee of \$10 for instruction in this subject.

With regard to the other subject, forensic chemistry, so little is known as to the meaning of the term even by the Senate themselves, that that body has thought it necessary to appoint the above committee to find out. That committee has reported, and yet I fail to discover anything not already included in the practical chemistry of the first year, or the physiological chemistry and histology of the second year. And yet the School of Practical Science demands another fee of \$10 for instruction in this subject.

If the Senate were a body appointed to determine how to obtain the largest amount of fees from medical students, they could not perform that work more faithfully than at present. If, as the writer has heard suggested, it is the desire of the Senate to make a good appearance on their curriculum and class lists by multiplying subjects, they can still do so, and relieve the students of at least one fee by requiring both physiological and forensic chemistry at the same examination.

In conclusion this may seem to be a small matter, but, when taken in connexion with numerous other fees and grievances not so easily remedied, which medical students have to bear, it becomes a matter of considerable importance; and these considerations are offered at the present time in view of the meeting of Convocation on the 8th inst., when Dr. Oldright, who is generally credited with the initiation of the numerous changes in the medical curriculum, may have an opportunity of justifying himself to his constituents.

MEDICO.

#### NOTICE.

The 'Varsity is published every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.

The Annual Subscription, including postage, is \$1.50, in advance, and may be forwarded to Mr. A. F. LOBB, University College, Toronto, to whom applications respecting Advertisements should likewise be made.

Copies of the 'Varsity may be obtained every Saturday of Mr. WILKINSON corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto.

Rejected Communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the WRITER must always accompany a Communication.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

It has been decided to produce the *Antigone* in the original Greek, in the Convocation Hall of the University, during the month of March next.

The University Glee Club will sing the choruses, arranged to the music of Mendelssohn, and the characters will be taken by gentlemen connected with the University.

There will be two representations.

Applications for seats will be received from Graduates and Under-graduates up to the 28th day of February next, after which date other applications will be received.

Applications to be addressed to H. S. Osler, Esq., Secretary Finance Committee, from whom all information can be obtained.

Price of Tickets: Reserved Seats, \$1.50; Ordinary Seats, \$1.00.

MAURICE HUTTON,  
Chairman of Committee.

20th January, 1882.

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