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## Original Communications.

### THE VALUE OF THE STUDY OF MEDICINE.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE AT THE OPENING OF THE 59TH SESSION  
OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
DELIVERED OCTOBER 1ST, 1891.

By R. M. BUCKE, M.D., OF LONDON, ONT.

*Mr. Dean and Gentlemen :*

The invitation which so much honors me to deliver this introductory lecture came to me as I was on the point of sailing for England. I had not strength of mind to refuse, nor had I, under the circumstances, any means whereby adequately to fulfil so important an engagement, for if I accepted I should have to write my lecture largely or altogether at sea, and the use of books would therefore necessarily be denied me. I decided, nevertheless, to attempt the task and to rely largely upon such inspiration as the ocean might give me, and accordingly much of what I now offer you was penciled on the steamer's deck in full view of the sparkling wave crests or of the long, slow, sullen roll of the unquiet Atlantic. It would be well, both for you and for me, had I been able while so occupied to catch from my great companion one pulse of her cosmic passion, one glimpse of her breadth, freedom, audacity, *insouciance*, one iota of her depth, her clearness or her beauty. You will judge, gentlemen, how little of all this has been granted me, but there remains my deep feeling of the privilege of speaking to and for and in the halls of dear old McGill, and on this feeling I rely to carry me without dishonor through the present undertaking. One-third of a century