

"Befall the flesh through too much stress and strain, whereby its wily vapor fain would slip back and rejoin its source before its term?"

Brother, these amalecta and memorabilia are as segments or as subjects which my thoughts briefly touch.

APPRECIATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

DURING the present week (May 27th) we have had a visit—or as the irreverent might say, a visitation—of about half a thousand doctors from all parts of the province. This circumstance calls the attention of the thinking to the place of the physician in our social, civic and municipal economy; and will give new play to appreciation of, as well as prejudice against, the profession. There is a popular prejudice, mostly founded, as most prejudices are, upon ignorance, against doctors as a class, and there is no limit to the disparagement, associated with this prejudice. To show that they are unfounded, it is only necessary to mention one instance—doctors, the ignorant say, write their prescriptions in Latin so that the patients won't know what poisons they are being served with. Prescriptions were first written in Latin at a time when Latin was a universal language, the language of diplomacy, the language with which every educated man was familiar. A prescription written by a Canadian physician in Latin, if presented to a druggist in any country in the world, could be properly compounded through the medium of the universal medical language. This is only mentioned as a type of the ignorance and misunderstanding that create popular prejudice against physicians. Companion to this is the practice of a patient waiting till he is nearly dead before he calls a doctor, and because a miracle of healing is not done the doctor is blamed.

But in spite of all this, the doctors flourish and humanity is the gainer. Medical research, and improvement in surgical science, have made tremendous strides. Operations that a few years ago were considered capital and only to be trusted to some distinguished and expensive specialist, are now classed as minor and common with the humblest rural doctor. Not only has the healing branch of the art been vastly improved and human life prolonged, and human suffering mitigated, but the higher branch of the healing art—prevention—has made immense advance; and improvement in sanitation, in face of bitter opposition from ignorance and the indifference of ignorance, has added immensely to