

has been brought under their notice with reference to their course in life. We wish them and all who have graduated before them God speed and all blessing to themselves and others in their professional career. The past year has stricken from our small roll of governors and officers two venerable names. Mr. T. B. Anderson was one of the original band of earnest and public spirited men, leaders in the Protestant community of Montreal, who conceived and executed the noble intention of rescuing the McGill endowment from the dilapidated condition into which it had fallen, and establishing on a firm basis a University in Montreal. In the twenty-one years which have elapsed since that resolve was formed, though the University may be said to have merely grown from infancy till it has attained to its majority, how many young men have had occasion to be thankful for the benefits it has conferred, and how many are already occupying important positions of public and professional usefulness? Dr. Smallwood has also passed away from among us, and although his connection with the work of instruction in the college was necessarily very small, yet his work as an observer and writer in meteorology and kindred subjects has left its mark in our Canadian Science. At a time when little public attention was given to meteorology, before the Governments of Britain, of the United States and of Canada had been stirred up to make weather signals, at least a portion of the work of the National Department, he had alone and unaided established his observatory at St. Martins, and was making careful observations with instruments some of which were constructed by his own hands. Those of us who know anything of the difficulties and discouragements attending scientific work in those old times will be able to appreciate the self denial and labour which it involved, and will be the last to despise the ingenious if primitive contrivances which registered the winds and electrical phenomena at St. Martins, however different may be the apparatus now available, and which will doubtless appear equally primitive to those who may succeed us. In later years Dr. Smallwood enjoyed some reward for his labors in the honors and reputation to which he had attained, and the small though useful aid given by Government to his labors. One feature in his character which deserves especial mention was that sympathy with the popular desire for information which prompted him at all times freely and fully to communicate through the public press anything that he had learned respecting any rare or curious phenomenon, and he was thus, to a large extent, a popular educator in the subjects to which he had devoted himself. The example of those who have departed is eloquent in counsel to those who are entering on life; and though in the keen struggle for professional success which now prevails it would perhaps scarcely be wise to advise our graduates in law and medicine to leave the narrow walk of ordinary professional work, it may be well to remind them that there are collateral avenues to usefulness and fame, which, as our country grows more and more, must become more numerous and promising. One of these I may specially mention as connected with both medicine and law, the great and growing subject of public Hygiene, including all that relates to the preservation of health and life whether in connection with external conditions, physiological habit, social condition or legal enactment—a subject which in some of its branches is already provided for, at least by an extra-academical course, in our Faculty of Medicine. Boasting of the salubrity of our climate, and of the rapid growth of our towns and villages, we have thought too little of the conditions necessary for the healthy life of large aggregations of human beings. The growing prevalence of epidemic and endemic diseases, and the

large bills of mortality warn us that such neglect can be persisted in no longer. If we are to preserve any reputation for the healthiness of the Canadian climate and to prevent our beautiful cities from becoming whited sepulchres, all that concerns drainage, scavenging, pure water, ventilation and generally the possession of healthy houses for the people and the removal or destruction of the insidious and often microscopic causes of disease must receive a scientific and practical attention. We need not compass sea and land to secure one emigrant while we allow two of our own people to die from preventible causes. We need not build vast warehouses and factories and palatial residences if we allow the population which should render them valuable and profitable to perish, or to be scared away. We need not even have public parks when the poor are being destroyed in pestilential houses within sight of them. In old and thickly peopled countries the population may be suffered to drain into the large cities and to decay there while the general prosperity at least appears to be unaffected. But here every hand and every head is needed, and we cannot afford every year to decimate our population by the foul miasmata of putridity. This is after all a low view to take of evils which in many households are constantly breaking up every arrangement for comfort and enjoyment, producing untold suffering, and crying for remedy with all the pathos of a helpless and uncomplaining misery. Have we not young men to grapple with these evils in a spirit of strong and vigorous determination, and have we not older men to aid with their advice and influence, and to give out of their accumulated wealth the means necessary to agitate this matter, until it shall force itself upon the attention of the public, the City Corporation, and the Provincial and general Governments. (Applause.) The subject is one not foreign to our present meeting. It is one in which professional workers in law and medicine must take a lead, and it is one which has a bearing on education. Healthy mental life cannot exist without bodily soundness. Unfavourable sanitary conditions beget a low intellectual and moral tone in society. The Student is exposed to injury as well as others; and if our cities acquire a reputation for unhealthiness it may tend to repel young men from educational advantages which in these alone can be adequately provided. I must say, however, that within the last twenty years the mortality among the Students attending the University has been very small and that though last winter has been considered unhealthy, very few of our Students have suffered from illness, an exemption which, while no doubt, connected with regular habits of life, is also a reason for much thankfulness to God. I hope, however, that not only will our summer course of lectures on Hygiene by Dr. Roddick be largely attended, but that a movement will be at once begun to give the principles of the subject thorough and practical effect. (Applause.) While thanking our friends for their large attendance here to-day, I would remind them that the similar meeting for the Faculty of Arts occurs at the end of April, and that we hope then to lay before them evidence of the growth and progress of the more purely educational department of the University, as well as of the School of Practical Science, which has recently been connected with it (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he observed no place on the programme for a speech by the Chancellor, whose place he had been unexpectedly called upon to fill. He could not, however, allow the occasion to pass without saying a few words applicable to the business of the meeting. The duty of the Governors was to look after the finances, and to promote the prosperity of the University. The extent to which they had succeeded in this duty was largely