

all literary work as soon as he matriculates. His brothers and sisters go on and take a much more advanced course in the collegiate institutes, or graduate in Arts at a university. These, and now-a-days their number are legion, know the meagre literary attainments of medical students: and, therefore, can never have very much respect for "the learning of the doctors." Less than a quarter of a century ago, the literary "rating" of the doctor was on a par with that of the university graduate; now, he can only be graded with the higher forms of our public schools, and intermediate classes in the collegiate institutes. This low literary "rating" of medical students, is not the result of any desire on their part to be less erudite than their former classmates; but it is entirely due to the enormous progress made in medicine. Compare the medical curricula of to-day, with those of thirty years ago—the length of the course is practically doubled, and the amount of technical work quadrupled. Then, too, higher education was the privilege of the few; now, it is the boon of the masses.

FINANCIAL STATUS.

The income of the average practitioner is, probably, as large now as it was a few decades ago, when he was looked upon as "a man of substance," whilst the fees of the specialists are, doubtless, much larger than those obtained by the most eminent men of those days: yet, the medical man is no factor, in reality he is completely ignored now in the financial world. We have not, far to look for this apparent anomaly. Fifty years ago, such were the limits of trade, that industrial and commercial firms could easily distribute all their goods with one wagon. In our day, individual manufacturers and merchants have combined their capital, formed strong joint stock companies, and have laid the whole world wide tribute to fill their coffers. Formerly, the financial "ratings" of these men were by the tens of thousands; to-day, by the millions. What chance is there for doctors to compete for riches under such commercial expansion as now exists? The financial "rating" of the average physician is simply on a par with that of the better class of skilled artisans.

SOCIAL STATUS.

Any rapid increase in wealth creates a class who have leisure and social distinction. Physicians and their families formed quite an important factor of this privileged class in the first half, or more, of the past century. This was due to the doctors' literary, financial and social status in that age. Now, however, owing to the "output" of our colleges and universities, any hostess of social distinction can fill her