

the situation of house surgeon in our various hospitals. Hitherto, I am of opinion, these officers have retained their appointments too long, to the exclusion of others from those advantages which they themselves (it is to be presumed) no longer require. In each hospital I would like to see a house surgeon and an assistant house surgeon. The former should be a licensed practitioner, the latter a student in his fourth year, who, if found qualified, should succeed his chief the following year on being received. By this arrangement each house surgeon would spend two years in the hospital, a rotation system would be established, a stimulus would be given to the students, and a larger number of them would benefit by the advantages thus afforded. I do not hold positively to the periods here laid down, but I believe the hint here thrown out might be acted upon or modified to the great advantage of our students.

Again, in the interest of the students, there is yet another point upon which I would like to touch. I allude to the adoption of trimestrial examinations in all schools of medicine. My colleagues and myself can testify to the immense amount of labour which this entails on the professors, but we can also testify to the immense advantages it affords the students—and herein we are amply repaid. These examinations are conducted by a committee of the Faculty, each professor examining on his own branch in the presence of his colleagues. At Laval there are three terms in each year; consequently the student undergoes twelve of these almost public examinations in the course of his four years' study. The advantages to be gained by the students are, first, and perhaps above all, a strong inducement to him to commence his studies in earnest the very day he enters the college. Secondly, by these examinations he discovers whether his lectures or private reading have been profitable to him or not; and lastly, he learns to appreciate and take in the full scope of his professional questions, and by frequent habit, he obtains a facility of answering. The quarterly examinations above alluded to are of course in addition to the usual weekly examination in each class.

The course of study is I see to extend over a period of four years. This is not too long, but perhaps it would be well to specify distinctly in the bill that no degree *ad practicandum* shall be conferred before the full expiration of his term.

It has been suggested by the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, that in every school of Medicine, commencing degrees, a course of lectures should be given on insanity and medical jurisprudence, as connected with disorders of the mind. As most of the cases of insanity in their earlier stages come under the care of the ordinary physician, this is, perhaps a subject which may occupy the attention of the different collegiate councils of this Dominion.

Last year Dr. Parker directed the attention of this association,