

tion. In all but this practical knowledge, however, the laity is somewhat approaching the level of the professional man.

Is then the practice of medicine, heretofore giving to its adherents a position above the average in general society, in any danger of coming to be merely a high-class trade? Are the sacrifices made, the hardships gone through, even the sympathy displayed by the physician, in any risk of being set down as merely commodities to be exhibited as routine, and not in any way the true inclinations of one ennobled to some extent by having worked in the vast field of usefulness, and of grave responsibilities, which medicine presents? No; practically this is not what seems to be coming to pass at all. The masses are still prepared to respect, but are by their own advancement, raising the standards required of us. Woe to him, then that does not appreciate and hasten to profit by this necessity. He will be what Carlyle calls "the unable man" in the position of influence. If, however, he earnestly set about the acquiring of general information, he will, judged by the standards now fixed by the laity, be considered a worthy member of his profession, will help to maintain the rank of medicine with its sister professions of necessarily wide learning, and most of all, will approach the type of his British brother in medicine, as gentleman of culture.

Once having realized the value of general reading as a habit, it must be a weak character who will not strive to adopt it. It may be urged that a busy practitioner, especially one settled in the country, has hardly time for medical reading, much less for that of any other nature. When however it is remembered that this other is recreation and that as years roll by, it is one of the few pleasures likely to satisfy, and that true manliness is the direct result of reading and its accompanying thinking, objections must vanish. Practically it has been found that, with a definite system of even but fifteen minutes daily allotted time, in a year the fruits of our industry will be remarkable. There are, no doubt, some to whom literature, other than medical, has scant charm, but let them weigh its results and remember, that if they earnestly seek they shall find.

### NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

On Wednesday of last week a memorandum regarding the erection of a new physical laboratory was presented to the Government, and was received with a promise of consideration. On Saturday the Executive of the Alumni Association met and prepared resolutions asking the Government to receive a deputation of graduates, undergraduates and friends of the University to urge the adoption of a policy which should provide for the growing needs of the University in all departments, and especially at this juncture to provide for the erection of a physical laboratory and the organization of a department of forestry. The Senate of the University passed a statute a year and a half ago ordaining the department of forestry and appointing a teaching staff, but the statute has waited ever since for the ratification of the Government. The need of the physical laboratories can best be expressed by reprinting the memorandum referred to, as follows:

Memorandum from the Board of Trustees of the University of Toronto to the Minister of Education Regarding the Erection of a New Physical Laboratory.

The Board of Trustees in submitting herewith the plans for a new Physical Laboratory, beg to direct the attention of the Government to the following statement regarding the present situation, which, in the opinion of the Board, demands immediate action:

The President, in his annual reports to the Government, has repeatedly called attention to the necessity for a new building for Physics, and in his report for the year ending June 30, 1902, expresses the opinion that "the erection of a new Physical Laboratory is the most urgent need of the University at the present time, and cannot be longer delayed without seriously impairing the efficiency of this important department." Since the time referred to the disabilities under which the work of the department has been conducted have so multiplied that action in the matter can no longer be delayed. The Department of Physics provides instruction to students, not only in Arts, but also in Medicine, Engineering, Dentistry and Household Science, the work in the last two subjects named having been added during the present year. For the larger classes the lecture room accommodation is quite inadequate. There are this year four classes containing respectively 180, 186, 195 and 60 students. The Physics lecture room is seated for only 135 students, and, to show how serious the situation has become since last session (1902-03), it may be stated that, whereas it was necessary last year to divide one class and repeat the lecture, this year the increased numbers render such a division necessary in the case of four classes.

In the practical work the situation is even more serious. The total number of students to be provided for this year in the laboratories is 403, the accommodation for whom was found so inadequate that it has been supplemented by utilizing the space between the cases in the apparatus room, and by resorting to four rooms in the basement. Such temporary makeshifts as these, however, cannot continue to be used in fairness either to instructors or students.

Some idea of the inadequacy of the accommodation may be formed by comparing the total floor space available in Physics with that of the Departments of Biology and Chemistry, the former of which has three times as much space, and the latter about twice as much space as that at present allotted to Physics. In fact, the accommodation is so limited that it is not only insufficient for proper work, but it is positively insanitary.

The estimated cost of the erection of the proposed building is \$175,000. A further sum of \$40,000 will be required for equipment.

With regard to the probability of future expansion in the Department of Physics; it should be added that, in the plans submitted, due allowance therefor has been made in lecture room accommodation, and that, whilst the laboratory accommodation is planned only for present needs, the building, which is constructed on the unit system, can be readily enlarged for this purpose at any future time by extension of the wings.

There was a little girl  
And she had a little curl—  
To the vanity of woman it attested—  
And when she was good  
She was very, very good,  
And when she was bad she was arrested.

—Widow.