

CANADA
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Valedictory Address to the Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, on behalf of the Medical Faculty McGill University. Delivered at the Annual Convocation held in the William Molson Hall of the University, on the 28th March, 1873. By GILBERT PROUT GIRDWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.; Professor of Practical Chemistry.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES: In the name and on behalf of the Professors of the Faculty of Medicine, among whom I have the honour of enrolling my name, I congratulate you on receiving, at the hands of the Principal, the highest honours this University confers on its graduates, as a reward for the patience with which you have listened to her teachings and the assiduity with which you have prosecuted your studies. Gentlemen, in accordance with a time-honoured custom, I take this opportunity to offer you a few words of advice on entering upon the active duties connected with the practice of the profession you have chosen. You have this day received your degree of Doctor of Medicine and Master in Surgery as a reward which has been hardly earned, as you know full well, and well deserved, as your examiners can testify. It is now placed by your Alma Mater in your hands; love, honour and respect it; keep this honour as a bright jewel; wear it as an ornament; be careful not to sully its brightness; but, continuing in the steps in which you have already commenced, add lustre and brilliancy to it by the conscientious performance of the duties required of you. You will thus make your degree, your University and your country respected wherever you go. The grade which you have this day taken places you, as members, in the ranks of the noblest and most honourable of professions. Noblest and most honourable in its objects—relief of human suffering and salvation of human lives—whereby you are led to follow in the footsteps of our great Master “who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed.” You now start out into the world to fight your own way; the eyes