

During those early years too, acquire expertness in the use of the microscope in the examination of morbid textures and liquids, of test solutions and burettes in the volumetric analysis of the renal secretion, and of the ophthalmoscope in the exploration of the deeper parts of the eye. Let me advise you to keep accurate and complete notes of the cases that come under your care, and spare no pains to record every fact connected with them. This will tend to make you accurate observers and prevent that slovenliness in the examination of patients that lies at the bottom of errors in diagnosis, and that looseness of statement that spoils the records of so many would-be contributors to science. I am confident that were any of you to expend the time and labor necessary to ascertain the daily range of temperature, the daily excretion of the kidneys, the daily condition of the pulse-wave by the sphygmograph, in four or five examples of any disease, however common, you would not only acquire a reputation for scientific research, but would soon add many valuable facts to medical science; and I suggest this method of spending a portion of your time, that shall prove alike profitable and honourable. There are some topics which we Canadians have especial opportunities of investigating and at which you may therefore hopefully work. Such are the post-mortem appearances and modes of death from exposure to cold and to heat; the condition of the blood in ague; the nature of the alterations of the spleen and liver in that affection; and the following amongst other questions: Does the paludal poison cause amyloid degeneration, or protect against consumption? Is intermittent fever due to the entrance into the system of a microscopic fungus? What is the effect of the long cold winters in Lower Canada, upon the course, duration, and issue of consumption? What are the causes and most successful treatment of charbon? What is the influence of cold and dry weather upon the prevalence, course, and issue of diseases generally?

It is time that Canadian physicians should turn their attention to their own country, and study and investigate the peculiarities which our climate, soil, modes of life and social habits impress upon the course, and termination of disease. There is a subject not remotely allied to that just spoken of, in which, because of its great importance to the future welfare and progress of the whole country, I wish to interest you; I allude to the necessity that exists for an exact and uniform system of enregistering, births, marriages and deaths throughout the Dominion, placed under the supervision of a central authority—a Registrar-General. Some of you will doubtless one day occupy seats in the Legislature of your country, all of you will have more or less influence upon both electors and members, and I hope you will take every opportunity of forcing the importance of