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"Thus saith the Preacher: 'Naught beneath the sun is new
What varied wonders tempt us as they pass?
The cow-pox, Tractors, galvanism, gas,
In turn appear to make the vulgar stare
Till the swoll'n bubble bursts and all is air!'"

Although I am as much an advocate of laboratory methods as the most scientific younger surgeon, yet they should not replace those powers of observation which are the great asset of the medical man. I fear a tendency to do so, for the recent graduate dares not diagnose a fracture without x-rays, a typhoid fever without a Widal, syphilis without a Wassermann, and so on. We cannot always carry a laboratory or hospital appliances about with us so we should not depend too much on the use of mechanical means in diagnosing disease and should not let our powers of observation atrophy. Time, no doubt, will remedy this state of affairs and things will bear their proper proportion to one another. Some are very sceptical that this will occur and think there is nothing true or sure but mutability, as Moore says,

"This world is all a fleeting show
For man's illusion given;
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow,
There's nothing sure hut heaven."

For the sake of the wounded in the present awful war it is fortunate that surgery has attained such a high pitch of efficiency and that hospitals are now so well arranged and managed. What a contrast to that which existed in the Crimean War when Florence Nightingale did so much to clean out the Augean stables whose doors were closed with red tape. Now from the field to the base hospital everything is done for the wounded in the quickest possible time and in the most skilful manner and the proportion of recoveries is proportionately large. I am glad that Canada is doing so well and is so eager to establish hospitals. The universities deserve great commendation for the way they have come forward to man the various hospitals with their best teachers, best surgeons and physicians and specialists. All honour to them and to the Canadian nurses and students who go with them. We are all sure the work will be well and scientifically done and reflect credit not only on the British Empire, but on the whole of Canada and its professional men and women. May God go with them and prosper them!