

out some defects the less occasion for complaint will the auditors possess.

If, indeed, my screed turn out to be a jeremiad, the proneness of the Keltic mind to such indulgence must plead my excuse on atavistic grounds; and the increasing tendency of one's second quarter of a century in the practice of physic to recognize much merit in the men and methods of the past will add its suit in my defence.

The burden of my lament to-day is the overcrowding of our ranks, and the decadence of scholarship in the profession; and I shall best requite your courtesy and confidence in giving me this opportunity to inflict my views upon you by the briefest possible presentation of my subject.

I should do this in any case, however, recognizing to the full the truth of the ancient adage, *Verbum sapientibus sat*.

The fact of overcrowding in the profession is sufficiently obvious to enable me to dispense with a demonstration, and is as well known to all of you as to myself. The same thing is equally true of the other professions which, like our own, are still by courtesy called *learned*.

The church and the bar suffer from the same plethora as ourselves, and in their case the remedy will perhaps be more difficult of application, and equally drastic in action. Your courtesy will doubtless allow me, however, to cite one or two instances in unnecessary substantiation of the proposition. And I need go no further afield than the city in which we meet to look for an illustration.

It used to be considered that a population of 1,000 souls afforded a sufficient clientèle to keep one medical man in reasonable occupation and affluence. But what do we find here? A city of 200,000 inhabitants and 400 physicians! Under the circumstances, these are naturally not of "Toronto's 400." A census of other cities, and of rural districts, will reveal a like condition of affairs; and some three years ago Sir William Mitchell Banks, in his presidential address to the Lancashire and Cheshire branch of the British Medical Association, discoursed upon the same state of the professions at home in England. This year, in France, too, the same subject has been the theme of more than one discourse.

The overcrowded state of the profession being granted, then, what are the evils which flow therefrom?

I make no apology, for none is needed, for answering this question by a long quotation from Mitchell Banks.

Those of you who know the man, or who had the privilege of listening to him in Montreal two years ago, will welcome again the *ipsissima verba* of the master, while they will regretfully miss his inimitable delivery; and those who have not the pleasure of his acquaintance will gladly gather some impression of the man from my selections, while I willingly confess my inability to say what I wish to say with anything like the same felicity:

"At many meetings held during the past year, I could not help