

successful. After a course of several years devoted to the acquisition of knowledge, you will go forth and gain distinction in the fields of general or special practice. But on the other hand many may find the journey of life along the path of medicine and surgery by no means a bed of roses.

Art is long and life is short. There is much hard and serious work to be done. The material upon which you will be called to display your skill is the nearest and dearest to all humanity—life. You must therefore expect that as your work is of the highest order, the criticism to which you will be exposed will be of the very keenest kind.

Medicine and surgery has been a money-making calling to only a few of the more fortunate. The physician is compelled to live in good form and maintain respectable appearances. He is often called upon freely, as to his time and means, to aid many objects. All these things drain heavily upon his resources. As things now go the medical man has his full share of the anxieties of life. His rewards may be many and of high grade; but certainly they are not likely to be of a financial order.

The numbers who enter upon the study of medicine, and afterwards meet with disappointment and betake themselves to other callings, are very considerable. But the numbers who still struggle on at the healing art and yet never rise above the level of a bare living are still greater. That the practice of medicine and surgery can only afford a good income to a few becomes at once apparent when you consider the number of physicians and surgeons as compared with the population of the civilized world.

How many of the young men now entering the colleges for the first time have really seriously considered the question, What should I make after spending my time and money for four or five years at College? Would the average ambitious young man think favorably of the idea of making, say, \$1,000 or \$1,500 a year as a reward for such an expenditure? Those who study medicine merely as a profession and for its own sake, are limited to the wealthy as a rule, and we have not very many of such students in this country. In the language of the German proverb, "Medical study with most of the students is bread study."

It is all very well to say there is room at the top; but only a few, a very few, can ever get there. I think there are now far too many young men rushing into the learned professions.

Yours, etc.,

London, Ont., Oct. 1st, 1896.

AN OLD PRACTITIONER.