

Opening Lecture, Dental College of the Province of Quebec.

MR. DEAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It is my pleasant duty to welcome you at the beginning of another session. We have reason to feel greatly encouraged as to our College, and also as to the recognition that the profession of dentistry in this Province is at last beginning to receive from the universities.

Great institutions, like great minds, move slowly, but, thanks to the united efforts of the Board and the Dean of the College, arrangements for affiliation are making good progress, and there is every probability of the degree of D.D.S. being granted in the near future to those who successfully qualify. The obtaining of affiliation alone is a great step in the right direction. It means the uplifting of the profession, and therefore of the individual members of the profession.

There has been some remark on the part of a few about the standard to which the matriculation examination has been raised. But, gentlemen, it must be clear to anyone who thinks of it that the raising of the standard of the general education required is the only way in which we can attract a refined and intelligent body of men to our ranks. The days are forever gone when a man who can neither write nor speak his mother tongue correctly, can hope to climb to the top of the tree in any profession, dentistry not excepted. The intellectual training which is the consequence of a good general education, puts a man at once in a position to recognize the important points of every new phenomenon with which he is brought in contact, so that he will grasp and assimilate a new subject of study with comparative ease and enjoyment; while the man who has never received this intellectual training will spend hours over unimportant details, and miss the main point or principle which it is important for him to grasp. Those of you who have had to compete in the medical school with men who have graduated in arts will no doubt have verified this statement. Then, too, a good general education gives a man a sense of freedom and ease when brought into contact with people of culture and refinement. I heard the other day that a number of school teachers had matriculated in dentistry in Ontario, so that if at any time they wished to give up teaching they could take up the study of dentistry. I for one would welcome such men to our ranks.

In this Province, until recently, there has been no organized effort to teach dentistry. But we are at last beginning to wake up to our responsibilities, and by the hearty co-operation of all the licentiates, we shall, without doubt, achieve a degree of success of which we may justly feel proud. Banded together as we are in the interests of a common pursuit, we should be influenced by an