

graph we have quoted is one of them. To say that "there are hundreds of general practitioners in Montreal \* \* \* who, if they submitted themselves to the examinations to-day, would infallibly be plucked," is absurd. In the first place there are only about three hundred practitioners in Montreal, and of these about one hundred are attached to the three medical schools, and we believe we assert the truth in saying everyone could present themselves and pass the present examination. In some of the elementary branches they might be unable to take more than a pass, in having become rusty in some minute details, for which all students cram. These details have not changed much in the last thirty years, and are those which as a rule are misty in ninety per cent. of all graduates a year or so after they have left College. The progress in Medical Science during the last twenty years has been in the field of practical medicine. And in this field we know, from the discussions which take place in our Medical Societies, the great bulk of general practitioners, whether attached to colleges or not, have kept themselves well posted. To say as does "Old Fogey" that "the poorest fourth year undergraduate has a superior equipment to the man who is licensed to practice" is simply arrant nonsense. No matter how well a graduate is equipped, the moment he encounters his first serious case he feels himself in a sea of theoretical knowledge. He must be possessed of a clear head and considerable reasoning power before he can narrow his vision down to the point where he has brought within his view those particular facts or theories applicable to the case before him. To the great majority of practitioners, at least a half dozen years must elapse before clinical experience will give them at least a fair amount of confidence in the practice of their profession. A surgeon before he can be even a fair surgeon must perform many times operations on the cadaver, which few students have an opportunity of doing when at College. He cannot be looked upon as an expert surgeon until he has been at least ten years in the operating field, and his abilities and expertness increases with years. Every succeeding year adds to his knowledge and to the knowledge of the causes of his failures. This continues till age unsteadies his hand, and from