

a heart-felt welcome, and confess that our sense of our incompetence to perform the task we have undertaken, is not lessened by the confidence in us they manifest in returning to these class-rooms. Such confidence shall stimulate us to do our best.

Before proceeding to make any observations upon the course of study you are about beginning, a few remarks upon the preliminary qualifications required of the medical student may not be out of place.

As far back as 1847, the qualifications required from a person about to commence the Study of Medicine in Lower Canada, were, "a good moral character, and a competent knowledge of Latin, History, Geography, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy," to which were added in 1850 "a general knowledge of the French and English languages."

In 1866, the Medical Council of Ontario, which had been incorporated in 1865, adopted the Matriculation examination recommended by the General Medical Council of Great Britain, which although not so comprehensive as that demanded by the laws of this Province, yet was more explicit, and the examination having been committed to one competent person, not directly connected with any Medical School, was a very important improvement upon our Lower Canada practice, and was at once adopted, and has been ever since carried out by this University. And let it be remarked *en passant*, that to the Canadian Medical Schools belongs the honour of having adopted a standard of preliminary education recommended by the Medical Council of Great Britain, which has not as yet been generally accepted and enforced by the teaching and examining bodies of the mother country.

About to enter then upon the study of Medicine, I assume that you have all passed the matriculation examination, which marks the beginning of the four years you are legally required to spend in its pursuit. The training of the mental faculties involved in obtaining a liberal education, forms the best preparation possible for one