

Teaching, treating of medical education in the United States, makes what Horace Greeley used to call 'mighty interestin' readin'.' Whether it is also entertaining depends largely upon the direction of the reader's sympathies and college associations. Very naturally, those who are connected directly or indirectly with the schools so fiercely and contemptuously flayed by Mr. Flexner, the writer of the report, resent his attack bitterly; while those connected with the institutions receiving his faint praise—there is but one perfect school in the eyes of this investigator—whatever they think, say little.

"The report professes to be based on a thorough and most painstaking personal investigation of every medical school in this country and Canada, made by Mr. Abraham Flexner, a professional critic of educators, or student of systems of education. In order to correct a very current misconception, we may say, in parenthesis, that this is not Dr. Simon Flexner of the Rockefeller Institute, but his brother. The doctor has troubles of his own with the antis of various ilks, and should not lose professional support through being made to answer for the sins of his brother. Neither, may we add, should the brother be judged by the essay which the president of the Foundation contributes by way of introduction to the report.

"As a result of this investigation Mr. Flexner concludes that the country is suffering from a great plethora of medical schools—a fact which medical men have well known and deplored these many years; that many of the medical schools have not a sufficiently high standard either of admission or of graduation—another fact long well known; and that the facilities for teaching, in the way of apparatus, subjects for dissection, etc., are lacking in a number of schools—likewise a matter of common knowledge. What the writer of the report does not seem to have discovered is that all these schools, with the exception of a very small and practically negligible number, are in process of betterment, and that several associations of medical men and medical educators are working constantly to encourage and force the poorer schools to raise their standards and improve their teaching methods. When one realizes what the best of the medical schools were twenty-five or thirty years ago, and what tremendous progress has been made during the past twenty, and especially the past ten years, and when one remembers that all this uplift has come from within, without the help of any outside 'Foundation,' the work of Mr. Flexner seems somewhat a waste of effort and a needless expenditure of Mr. Carnegie's hard-