

with the small amount of knowledge required by many of the Examining Boards. Is it not absurd that at the preliminary examinations in this province that some 50 to 60 per cent. of students (including B.A.'s from the best universities) are rejected annually, while dozens of men are admitted to the practice of the profession with the smallest modicum of knowledge of medicine and surgery? I am certainly an advocate of extending the scope and character of the preliminary examination in the direction of giving it a more scientific character, and think that physics, botany, biology and elementary chemistry should be subjects learned before entering on the study of medicine, but this extension requires time, and more facilities for teaching these subjects are needed in the ordinary schools of the country before they can be included in the compulsory subjects of the preliminary examinations.

I have another fault to find with the various boards—that is, the character of their professional examinations. The examiners are selected not on account of peculiar fitness or knowledge of the subject in which they examine, but because of some medico-political, territorial or other reason, and the feeling that the good things ought to be distributed irrespective of the fitness of the man for the position. I should advocate that no one who does not teach should be an examiner, for it is chiefly the teachers who are *au courant* with the progress of the more scientific subjects, and who know what students should be examined in and how the subject should be treated. I have heard of medical men in a neighboring province being selected to examine on such a subject as physiology, and who, a short time before the examination, cram up certain portions of a text-book used when they were students, and perhaps some 15 or 20 years behind the times, and then examine on these portions. I think this system an iniquitous one, and the sooner it is done away with the better. These appointments should only be given to the best men, and men who have some reputation in the subject on which they examine.

Before closing this fragmentary lecture, I wish to say something about the subject in which I am particularly interested,