

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XXXVII.

JULY, 1904

No. 11

EDITORIAL

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

Much has been written and said upon the subject of medical education. With all our colleges and hospitals and qualifying bodies, it is bound to be a live topic, and, like the poor, will be ever with us.

One of the topics of much interest is the degree of preliminary education that should be imposed upon the student, prior to his entry upon his professional studies. Many think that an arts standing should be exacted. There can be no two opinions upon the subject. The degree of general education should be good. It will be of the utmost value to the student himself to be compelled to possess a liberal knowledge of the fundamental subjects of general culture. Such knowledge will aid him throughout life in his distinctively professional studies.

It is incumbent upon colleges to demand of their students a becomingly high standard of character. It is much better that a student be arrested in the early part of his academic career than that he be allowed to proceed to a degree and then meet with failure, because of some serious defect in his character. The medical profession should be only for those who can do it honor. The *British Lancet* a few years ago contended that the sifting in the first two years should be thorough and searching.

The balance between the scientific work of the first two years and the clinical work of the second two years in Canada is as good as in any other good country in the world. Most of the provinces throughout the Dominion are adopting a five years' course of study—the first two to the scientific subjects, the second two to the practical and clinical subjects, and the fifth year to hospital work or practice with a doctor.

With regard to hospital experience there is room for much improvement. It is the cry from most of the cities where colleges are located there is a dearth of material. But it must be admitted that much valuable material is not being utilized at all. The medical staff of the medical colleges cannot possibly also be the physicians and surgeons to all the hospitals. Professor Osler made the happy suggestion last fall at