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ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS

BY WILLIAM MULOCK, M.A., Q.C., M.P.,
(*Vice-Chancellor of the University*).

Delivered at the Annual Banquet of the Faculty Students of the
Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto, Dec. 1, 1892.

It is with great hesitation that I venture, in the presence of so many medical gentlemen, representing, doubtless, various ideas concerning medical science, to refer to the subject from the standpoint of a non-professional observer; and if my opinions differ from those of my hearers, that circumstance should be some recommendation to them, with a profession which amongst its own members recognizes such latitude of opinion. Speaking, then, of medical science, I have been given to understand that, until a very recent period, medicine was regarded almost wholly as a curative art, with the result that the course of medical education in the old world as well as the new was limited to that aspect of the subject. Medical schools might multiply in number, but still they continued as mere imitators of an early prototype, imparting education but not aspiring to advance the science. Thus conducted, there was much in the contention that such institutions engaged simply in qualifying students to pursue an ordinary calling of life, and retaining for themselves the profits of the enterprise had no claim upon the public purse.

But, sir, the inquiring, active, and restless mind of the last few years has told the world

that medical science involves more than the mere curative art, and already the search-light of medical science has revealed great truths of nature whereby, under a scientific management, various classes of disease are preventable, and the well-grounded view obtained that this branch of research has scarcely been entered upon, and the old notion of medical science having to do with the curative art only, and even that not upon the most scientific basis, has been universally abandoned before the irresistible testimony furnished by the great discoveries of Pasteur, Lister, Koch, and other great philanthropic searchers after light in the fields of scientific investigation. Sir, following on the discoveries of these great men, this university, some fifteen years ago, endeavored to incorporate scientific into the ordinary medical education, and we gave ample opportunity to the medical schools to show their practical sympathy with such policy. Suffice it to say, to-night, that the strongest opposition to such movement came from a gentleman who, speaking in this hall forty-eight hours ago, deprecated the establishment of our Medical Faculty, and advised the readoption of that policy which he had assisted to make abortive. No, Mr. Chairman, this university is a progressive, but not an aggressive, institution, and, taking only safe-holding ground, holds what it takes; and I think I voice the sentiment of the whole university when I say that the university having tried the policy in question, and having been compelled to move upward to our present position by reason of the