

sundry are the reasons which will deplete the ranks of every freshman class as it proceeds to the final year. It is on every hand manifest to many who are already in the medical profession that particularly in this country is that profession far overcrowded. Toronto is said to be the second city in the world whose medical population is more in proportion to the civic population than any other city in the world, Madrid alone excepted. It is almost as bad in other cities of Canada, and also in the country. The last great West ever offers an alluring field; but even there, with a foreign population constantly pouring in, conditions for the medical practitioner are said to be burdensome, and that, although far-off pastures look green, only a few are actually eating the succulent morsel of success. When this is true and known to all, particularly to the professors in the different teaching faculties, why should there be any extra efforts put forth to entice young men into a profession which can gain only for its members a scant livelihood? Why should the paths of entrance be paved so smoothly? Why should entrance piecemeal be continued on the curriculum of the licensing bodies? Why should the standards not be raised? Why should the age entrance not be raised? Are the feelings and judgments of a boy of sixteen or seventeen years of age ripe for choice of a career? Is a young man of twenty-one years of age capable of employing that calm judgment and deliberation required in many emergencies with which the practice of medicine is hedged in, and in which often the life of an individual hangs in the balance? Has he at the age of twenty-one even more than acquired that good preliminary knowledge in general education which all ought to possess ere he embarks upon such a tempestuous sea as the study and the practice of medicine? As year after year goes by the medical profession takes a higher standing in the community at large; and, if this be so, does it not appeal to most men that granting licenses to practice the most noble and exacting of callings to young men who have but attained their majority is hardly apace with the advancement of the scientific and practical side of medicine? At least study up to that age of a general character should be demanded before any single student should be allowed to enter upon the study of medicine. It is "up to" the professoriate to do a little discouragement rather than encouragement to the ever-increasing tide which annually surges into the medical colleges of the land. One would think this specially incumbent upon those professors of a state-aided enterprise, as there can possibly not accrue any private gain. And it would also be but just to the poor student himself that a view of his future life-work should, as far