

stand still, since standing still involves a helpless and hopeless fall in the rear. In words similar to those of the Red Queen to Alice: "In this country you have to run as fast as you can in order to remain where you are."

It is in accord with progress that this university should determine to exact henceforth five years in the course of study leading to the degree in medicine, and I congratulate the Medical Faculty on the step taken. That four years are not sufficient to permit the student to meet all the demands of a modern curriculum is the conclusion of those who have given careful attention to the matter. A quarter of a century ago four years were considered to suffice amply for this purpose, but since then the medical sciences have made extraordinary advances into hitherto unexplored fields and, in consequence, the amount of knowledge which the student is expected to have when he graduates is far in excess of what was required of the student of twenty years ago. To lengthen the period of study to five years was, in my opinion, a wise act, and I believe that, though the Medical Faculty of McGill University may be called upon to make considerable sacrifices because of this change, it will bring not a loss, but a great gain in the end.

The result will, from the outset, be to the advantage of the student. The exaction of five years in medical study will enable him to acquire a fuller, ampler knowledge not only of medicine and surgery but as well of the sciences on which they are founded, and he will thus be better fitted to cope with the problems he will meet in his professional career than a training of four years only would enable him to do.

There is, however, one qualification which no length of training merely as such will give him, and he can only attain it by deliberately setting himself to acquire it. He may become an encyclopædia of medical and surgical lore, and he may be successful as things go in the exercise of his calling without that qualification, but if he is to achieve the highest success of which he is capable that qualification is absolutely indispensable to him. That qualification is the Scientific Spirit.

Because of its importance and because also its value to the student in training is not sufficiently understood, I have chosen that qualification as the central topic of my address to you to-day.

There are few things in which there is such a tendency to be inaccurate as in the use of words. The term Science is one of those loosely or wrongly employed. *Scientia*, the Latin word from which it originates, means knowledge in the ordinary and simple sense. To-day, in popular language, science is an oracular personality. Science tells us this, Science has done that, we hear again and again. This is all quite