

It will be part of my object to show you that, although the course of studies laid out for you is at first sight difficult, yet that the means of overcoming the difficulties and obstacles of the road are within your reach, and that to the industrious student the journey to a degree is interesting and pleasant. There are long marches it is true, and sometimes temporary stoppages (generally overcome by slight supplemental effort), but the road lies through a pleasing country, with so much that is interesting by the wayside that the traveller arrives at his destination sooner than the length of time spent in the journey would lead him to expect.

This is the problem to be solved by your faculty. How to afford the best medical education possible in the short space of four years? Our endeavour is to turn out as well educated a practitioner as we can—a practitioner I say, that is one who can practise, a man able at once to earn his own living and to make himself useful in the community. I believe we do turn out a practitioner, in the true sense of the word. The McGill graduate enters upon his career with a fair experience of general medical and special work, and so far we have no good reason to be dissatisfied with the result of our four years' work. The question arises, though, ought we to be satisfied or ought we be constantly endeavouring to effect improvements in the course?

The main difficulty in our way is the limited period of time at our disposal, but this difficulty we could overcome were it not for the attempts to regulate our teaching undertaken by the various provincial licensing bodies.

You have, I dare say, read *Æsop*, and you remember how the frogs, dissatisfied with the existing state of practice in the somewhat malarious district in which they resided, fell to grumbling, and, after considerable deliberation, demanded of Jupiter that some firm legislation should regulate the affairs of the profession. The thunderer, accordingly, sent them a log which met with contempt and disrespect. Annoyed at their conduct, he sent them a provincial board, and matters soon assumed such a condition that the frogs bitterly regretted that they had not set well alone. And so with the Canadian medical profession.