

resolutely adheres to his decision come what may, he is only too apt to fritter away his precious spare moments, and so lose his grasp on things. The use a man makes of his leisure time largely determines what manner of man he is, and what he will become. There is scarcely any pleasure comparable to the sense that one is "growing" mentally as the days slip by. Would that the spirit of self-perfection were more prevalent among us all!

Those who are gathered together here this evening are not all members of the medical profession or preparing to become members of it, not all alike interested in its welfare and repute. Much that I have said will, I fear, be of little practical concern to the laity at large, yet there is no other profession in whose well-being and reputation the public is really so deeply and practically concerned as in the medical profession. To every man, woman and child in the community the standard attained by this profession is of immense moment. Disease is no respecter of persons. No one knows how soon he may find it necessary to summon a physician to his bedside. No individual can afford, then, to be indifferent to those things which make for a skilful and learned and highly efficient medical profession. The law of self-preservation, if no other, would point out the folly of indifference. Yet for all that, and in spite of the greater prevalence in these present days of the altruistic spirit, we cannot say that the present state of public opinion in Canada with respect to the value of professional instruction of high university rank is what it should be. It may be objected by some of my hearers that it is very difficult to know what the state of public opinion is on this matter. But it may be inferred from the difficulty the profession has in arousing the active interest of our public men in medical education. When public men are difficult to interest in any question, it is generally because they imagine their constituencies are not interested, and the collective constituencies make up what is called public opinion. Without an active public opinion in favor of the highest possible standard in medical education, it is almost impossible to maintain such a standard. When the mass of the people appear to be hungering for quacks and quacking and patent medicines, a strong public opinion in favor of education of any kind is scarcely to be expected. On the earnestness with which the Canadian public regard education in general, and on their consequent willingness to spend money on it depends in large degree the standard which will be won and maintained in the Dominion. We should