

Original Communications.

The Graduates Valedictory Address at the Third Annual Convocation of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bishops College, April 9th, 1874. By DAVID A. HART, C.M., M.D., of St. Zephirin, Quebec.

My Lord, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Dean, Members of Convocation, ladies and gentlemen:—

To day, we have assembled in these classic halls for the purpose of taking part in the closing ceremonies of the Third Session of the Faculty of Medicine of this University, and to witness the sundering of ties that have long and pleasantly existed between the professors on the one hand and the students composing the graduating class of 1874, on the other.

Upon me, as Valedictorian of the Graduates, devolves the privilege, the sad yet pleasing duty of bidding a formal farewell to our Alma Mater, ere we leave her sheltering walls, and go forth to take our places in the ranks of those who are fighting the battle of life in the wider arena, and amid the more stirring scenes of the outside world. Glad though we may be that our time of probation has come to an end, and that we have been pronounced by skilled masters of the healing art worthy of being entrusted with the lives and happiness of fellow beings, yet it is with a feeling of regret that we take our departure from the Halls where we once met daily, where we shared the same hopes, the same anxieties, and finally, the same reward; where we have so often encountered one another in a spirit of generous rivalry, in our struggles to surpass one another in class-standing and to carry off the honors that our Alma Mater loves to bestow upon her deserving alumni. Where we have learnt a more peaceful meaning of Scott's

"Stern joy that warriors feel
In foemen worthy of their steel,"

and where, too, have been cemented friendships, the recollection of which will always be dearly cherished.

We meet here, classmates, as a body for the last time; to-morrow will witness a separation that may, to some of us, prove a lasting one. It is impossible, then, to prevent a feeling of sadness from mingling with and subduing those other feelings of pride and delight which so largely fill our breasts on this occasion, and from pervading the spirit of the few words I shall address to you. Before proceeding to utter those words of farewell, I will avail myself of my privilege as Valedictorian to return thanks to

our Professors, to whom we are so deeply indebted for that knowledge of the science of medicine which has enabled us to stand in the honorable and gratifying position we now occupy.

I can scarcely find fitting words wherewith to express our thanks and our sense of gratitude to our professors for their unceasing and untiring efforts to impart to us that knowledge of the theory and practice of medicine and surgery which it has cost them years of toil and study to acquire; for the cheerfulness with which they ever responded to our requests for information upon any difficult or knotty point that may have puzzled us for the time being, and impeded us in our progress to the goal at which we aimed, the honorable degree of C.M., M.D. The difficulties which beset us were not few, for no sooner was one removed, than another appeared; and it is only to the kindness and attention of our professors, to the interest they always took in our studies, that we can attribute the success which has now crowned our labors. And it is deeply gratifying to me to be able this day to bear public evidence to the fidelity and zeal with which the professors of medicine of this University have discharged the onerous and tedious duties they have undertaken, and to congratulate the under-graduates in medicine on their good fortune in having masters so earnest in furthering the objects common to both, the diffusion of medical knowledge and the obtaining of medical degrees.

It is scarcely necessary for me to remind you, fellow graduates, that the curriculum of studies you have been pursuing during the past four years is but merely initiatory to the more extensive and thorough course of study to which you will henceforth have to devote yourselves. You will find that your past academical life will, in the future, be chiefly of value to you in respect to the lessons you then learnt, to the training you then underwent, and to the habits of patient, persevering and systematic study you then acquired. Experience will have already taught you that that training and those habits have enabled you to obtain much knowledge of difficult and abstruse; and even tiresome and monotonous, subjects in a comparatively easy and pleasant manner; that, insensibly, they have increased the interest, perhaps very slight interest, you originally took in your studies, and that consequently, your books have long since ceased to be bores and have now become agreeable companions. Some of you, indeed, may have even felt surprised by the reflection, if you have happened to think at all on the subject, that the honorable degrees which have just been conferred