

## Original Communications.

*Valedictory on behalf of the Graduating Class of 1877*, by CASEY A. WOOD, C.M., M.D., of Ottawa, Ont., delivered at the Sixth Annual Convocation of the Medical Department (Montreal) of the University of Bishop's College, April 5th, 1877.

MR. CHANCELLOR, MR. DEAN, MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is with feelings of mingled pleasure and regret that I come forward to deliver the graduates' valedictory address at the close of this, the sixth session of the Medical Department of the University—of pleasure, because my fellow graduates have done me the great honor of selecting me as their valedictorian, and I feel proud to represent the class of '77—of regret, because I know that this Convocation closes my pleasant college life, and we who as students have for the past three or four years been constant companions, who have together gone through the trying ordeal of more than one examination, will in a short time be far apart, with but little prospect of renewing the happy scenes of college days.

Among the most pleasant of the tasks allotted to me is that of thanking our professors for the unvarying kindness we have experienced at their hands. I am sure I am but feebly expressing the heartfelt sentiments of the whole class when I assert that among the professors of no other college could we have witnessed such a continued desire to impart to the students the full benefit of their professional knowledge. Whether or not we can now appreciate to its full extent such gentlemanly and considerate behavior, we feel that we shall carry with us evergreen memories of their untiring zeal and unswerving attention to duty. Knowing as I do their good qualities, I deem those fortunate who, following in our path, become students under them. For all that constant kindness and courteous consideration I am highly honored to be able, whilst bidding them a hearty farewell, to tender them our sincere and grateful thanks.

Fellow-graduates—To you whom I have known and associated with all these pleasant years of our college career I would ask permis-

sion, while disavowing any intention to patronize, to say a few words.

I feel assured that none of you have undertaken the study of so great and noble a profession as that of Medicine without having first recognized the many and varied responsibilities you have taken upon yourselves. I am certain that from the very beginning you must have been cognizant of the fact that the attempt to follow in the footsteps of the Great Physician is a calling though doubtless not incompatible with seasons of pleasure and rejoicing, yet carried on always among scenes of physical pain and suffering, and it must naturally be expected that daily intercourse with want and wretchedness of every kind must have its influence over a life which is truly set "in the midst of so many and great dangers." As session after session went by, and you were nearing the goal you have now so happily attained, let us hope that you were preparing yourselves in every respect for the many duties you from this day forth assume. I do not mean by these preparations your medical attainments only, for the fact that you hold the degrees of C.M., M.D., from this University is a sufficient guarantee of that; but besides the mere acquisition of a certain amount of medical and surgical knowledge are we not justified in asserting that our curriculum is of further benefit to us? Do not the degrees of C.M., M.D., mean something more than competence to practice the different branches of our profession? I answer, Yes. Your title of "doctor" will certainly (and quite properly, too) be regarded by the public as an indication that you possess, or should possess, other acquirements not exclusively medical in their nature. You may question their right to expect anything of the kind—you may indeed give people to understand that your business is only to follow the mechanical occupation of healing the sick, but that will not do away with the fact that you, as medical men, will be required to perform duties the subjects of which do not take the shape of college lectures—do not require an examination—but still affect your after success for good or evil as you pay much or little attention to them.

In these matters you will have to be your own instructors—your text books your own in-born good sense and judgment, and your hospi-