

The Canada Lancet

Vol. XL.

DECEMBER, 1906

No. 4.

ECHOES FROM ST. MARY'S CLINIC, ROCHESTER, MINN.

By ERNEST A. HALL, M.D., Victoria, B.C.

ABILITY, natural and acquired; absolute truthfulness; and cleanliness and kindness, even to the poorest."

This is the answer which Dr. William W. Mayo, the father of "Will" and "Charlie," gave to the writer in reply to the question, "What are the factors that have contributed in the greatest degree to the unprecedented success of your sons?"

This aged veteran lives again in the lives of his boys, as the shadows lengthen during his eighty-eighth winter. Hale and hearty, with intellect still withstanding the advance of years, and with an active interest in all that has made this village among the cornfields famous. Dr. Mayo, Senior, is reaping the highest reward that is within the power of a parent to receive—the success of those he has brought into the world. No parent ever has had more cause for satisfaction or compliment, for I make bold to say that there are more intelligent worshippers at the shrine which his ability and foresight established than has ever bowed before any earthly monarch. If the education of the child should begin one hundred years before he is born, the Mayo brothers have been fortunate in having their education begun at least forty years before they saw light. William W. Mayo laid the foundation of the present success of his sons in his own sterling character, his independence, and originality. He deserved such boys, and when they came he trained them to habits of hard work, morality and thrift, giving them an opportunity to develop normally.

As an indication of the disciplinary environment of these boys, the father tells that when Will was somewhat younger than he is at present he came home smoking a somewhat cumbersome cigar. His father asked what he was smoking that for, the reply being because the other boys did it. The parental answer was, "Will, do not do things because other boys do them, but do things only because they are right." Suffice it to say that since our arrival in Rochester we have not seen Dr. Will smoking.

A visit to Rochester is not complete without making the acquaintance of this most interesting man. Dr. Mayo, Sr., is an Englishman by birth, studied chemistry under Dr. Dalton, graduated at St. Louis,