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With the Author's Compliments.

INAUGURAL LECTURE

Delivered at the Opening of the Third Summer Session

OF THE

MEDICAL FACULTY

OF DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N. S.,
APRIL 11, 1870,

By **GEORGE LAWSON**, Ph. D., LL.D., Professor of Chemistry.

MR PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Medicine is a liberal profession, requiring culture and knowledge and skill, and, withal, a spirit of Christian charity. It is not a trade for money making; it is not a field for vaulting ambition. The physician has to become the servant of the suffering; he has to go down among the fetid haunts of disease and death, and spend his days and nights, and risk his health and life, in relieving affliction and distress in a thousand forms, and chiefly among the sick poor, who are the poorest of the poor. It therefore becomes the duty of every young man who desires to enter upon the study of medicine to examine himself, and search his conscience, and try his fortitude, that he may know whether he has the mental power, the moral rectitude, the industry, the self-control and self-denial, the manual dexterity, and the general physical vitality, required in this most arduous of all the professions.

We applaud the successful statesman when he carries out a measure for his country's good; we cheer the soldier on to victory; we give public thanks to the donor of a thousand pounds to a charity. Let us reflect that it is a solemn act for our young men come forward, in the bloom of youth, to dedicate their lives to this peculiar work of healing the sick. All honour to them! And let not society forget the obligations—broad and deep—which it owes to the young medical student as well as to the physician old in labour and experience.

The Medical Faculty have requested me to address to you this evening a few remarks introductory to the course of study

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upon which you are about to enter. Let me, in the first place, give you a hearty welcome, one and all, to our medical school. We shall use our best efforts, as Lecturers, each in his own department, to afford you effective teaching in the various branches of science bearing upon the Healing Art. And, doing so, we shall expect, and shall feel that we have the right to expect, that you, as students, will exert yourselves in a similar manner; and, with an earnest singleness of purpose, devote your time and attention to your class-work. It is of the greatest importance for a medical student, as for any other young man, whatever be his calling or position in life, to form early the habit of close application. Until this habit be formed there can be no successful pursuit of a special study, and no satisfactory prosecution of a special piece of business. One object attained, and a very important one, by a student who passes successfully through the Arts Course of our University, is this very habit of Application,—the capability of using and directing and regulating the operations of his own mind. This habit may indeed be attained by private study, as well as by College training. There are men, with singular force of character, to whom it seems to come naturally, and with proper training they are ever the leaders of their fellows, not in book-learning alone, but likewise in the factory and the mine, in business and in battle. It is a habit, however, that needs to be carefully nursed, if we would not lose it. We can easily throw it aside when business or health or the needful frivolities of life require, although I regret to say that in our Arts Department, we have, every session, instances of students who allow their health to suffer from over application; but the young man, whether he be student or no, who fails to acquire this habit, can never make his mark in any pursuit, least of all perhaps in the profession of medicine. Want of application was personified, in England, by Hogarth's Idle Apprentice; and on this Continent and in our time we recognize it in the Loafer of our street corners. He has no fly-wheel to the machinery of his mind; his energies are expended in gyrations that effect no onward progress;—there is no directing spirit, and therefore no singleness of purpose.

I give out this gentle note of warning, because, on account of the peculiar character of our Medical School, we require to trust largely for diligence and success in class-work to the honor and good sense of students themselves. It is merely a preparatory school, and therefore there are no University Honors nor Professional License to be looked forward to as

the reward of excellence in studies and propriety in conduct. Hitherto we have had no reason to complain in either respect; on the contrary, the greatest diligence has been shown in the prosecution of work in all the classes, especially last summer; and I trust that you, the students of this year, will be disposed rather to emulate and surpass your predecessors than leave it to be said from this place on some future occasion that you fell behind. When a young man has once acquired the habits of a student and a gentleman, the whole world is opened up before him, there is no limit to his professional advancement; and, as in this preparatory school, you are laying the foundation, as it were, of your whole future career, we feel the responsibility that is laid upon us and that rests with you, and the necessity of pointing out that however much we may preach and beseech, it is only with your help that we can teach. But if, Lecturer and Student, each does his duty, the result need not be feared.

The proposal to establish a Medical School at Halifax goes back to the organization of the present Dalhousie College and University in 1863, and it was no doubt thought of and talked about even long before then. I understood that the Medical Society had the subject before them on more occasions than one;—but time passed on without any effective steps being taken, and the establishment of the University, although it removed some of the obstacles that previously stood in the way of a local Medical School, did not have the immediate effect of bringing matters to a bearing. It was not till five years later, viz: in the spring of 1868, that, (chiefly through the exertions of our indefatigable Dean,) a few gentlemen undertook the duty of lecturing, viz: Dr. Almon, Dr. Hattie, Dr. Farrell, Dr. Woodill, Dr. Reid, and myself, with Dr. Ross as Demonstrator and Dr. Almon, junior, as Prosector;—our Reverend Principal likewise sharing in the work as Matriculation Examiner. It was probably felt by some at the time that we were entering upon an experiment that might not in the sequel prove a success. Personally I never regarded it in that light. There was an obvious demand here for medical education; and I felt that if the medical men of the city entered heartily into the organization of a Medical School, it must necessarily secure a large number of students, and, when once established, and its utility became apparent to the public, the pecuniary aid required for its effective development would not be withheld either by the Legislature or private liberality.

But, in proceeding to the organization of the school, it was

found that there were difficulties of a serious nature to retard our efforts. The Governors of the University were prepared to treat the new Faculty in the most liberal spirit, and in affiliating the new school, to give such facilities in the way of accommodation to the Lecturers as could be given consistently with the effective working of the Arts department.

Sir William Young, the Chairman, and Dr. Avery, made handsome presents of prizes to the students. But there was no available fund for providing even the most necessary furniture and fittings, nor for apparatus, specimens and diagrams. All these, therefore, had to be provided by the Lecturers themselves, aided by the liberality of Dr. Avery and some other kind friends who appreciated the importance of the new Institution and came forward to aid it. The most serious obstacle, however, was the want of any legislative provision for anatomical study in the Province. The Legislature had undertaken the registering of Medical and Surgical Diplomas, thus licensing practitioners in the Province, but had made no provision whatever for these men being enabled, in the course of their practice, to continue their studies in practical anatomy and thus be prepared for performing the serious operations which might at any time be required of them. Neither could they teach their pupils the rudiments of Anatomy.

Without an Anatomical Act, and without public funds, it was impracticable to organize a complete school at the outset. And it was therefore determined to make the school merely a preparatory one, and to teach only what are termed the Primary subjects of a Medical Curriculum, viz. : Anatomy, Physiology, or, as it is usually called, Institutes of Medicine, Chemistry, and *Materia Medica*, with the addition of Obstetrics, which last, although properly belonging to the class of Final Subjects, is yet one upon the study of which students usually desire to enter early in their course.

Thus, by limiting attention mainly to Primary subjects, it was thought our students would be enabled to become thoroughly prepared to carry out their studies effectively in these branches and afterwards proceed to some other College to complete the Medical Curriculum, and present themselves finally for Examination for a Degree. Our classes meet during the summer, at a season when other Medical Schools are either altogether closed or only in partial operation ; so that, while affording facilities to junior students, we interfere in no respect with the work of any existing Institution. You see that extreme modesty marks all our arrangements.

The short history of our Medical School is soon told. We

commenced in 1868 with a small number of pupils, who, however, pursued their studies with diligence, and carried back to the country such account of their progress, that in 1869, the number increased to 22. The total number of students instructed during the two summers was thirty. Of the 22 who came last summer, there were four from the city and county of Halifax; from Annapolis county also four; from the Cape Breton counties, Inverness, Richmond and Cape Breton, one each; from Hants, one; Montreal, one; whilst Pictou furnished no fewer than nine,—an indication that there is either a greater taste for medicine in Pictou county, or a greater interest in Medical Education, than in any other county of the Province. The number of our students for the present summer cannot, of course, be ascertained until the session has fairly opened, but there are already indications of a farther increase.

We are now prepared to enter upon the work of our third session,—the third year of our existence as a medical school. And it is time that we should look matters fairly in the face, and enquire whether the experiment has been a success, and if so, what is to be the course of its development in the future? It is a well-established law of College life, exemplified in the past history of every University in this Dominion with which I am acquainted, that an Institution cannot stand still; it must either advance or retrograde. From the facts already adduced, we may, I think, fairly conclude that our school has been, in the following respects, a success (1st) in securing a circle of active medical men as teachers, sufficient for the present wants of the school; (2dly) in the attendance of a larger number of students than such a young institution had a right to expect; and (3rdly) in the progress made by the students, as exemplified not only by their work here, but by the places they have been able subsequently to take in the classes of other Colleges to which they have repaired to complete their studies. We have likewise had a large share of good will from the profession and the public. The Legislature, after a very full and impartial, I might say unsparring, ventilation, of our merits and shortcomings, have found the former to preponderate to such an extent that they have indicated their confidence in our efforts by passing an Act to regulate the study of Anatomy, and have thereby shown that their sense of *justice* to suffering humanity is greater than their *generosity* to unreasoning prejudice. These marks of favor, and acceptance of our labours, encourage us to look forward hopefully to the future,—and the question arises, should we continue to

exist as a Primary School, or should not some effort be made to re-organize so as to form a complete Medical School similar to those associated with the Universities of other cities? It is a great advantage to our young men to be able to obtain even preliminary instruction in medicine in their native city, or in their native province; how much more advantageous, alike to rich and to poor, would it be, if the whole course of study could be pursued here.

At present our Medical Students have no permanent connection with our Institution. We are here in Halifax simply doing the humble but no less laborious, no less useful, work of Tutors for distant Colleges, in whose success, however, none of us have any but the most general interest. You, as students, while disposed to value any benefits derived here, must feel that your true alliance will be with some other University, whose diploma you will carry, and whose honour and name you will be bound to uphold. Although the Medical School is affiliated to Dalhousie College, it has little more than the relationship of a lodger. The University should be the Alma Mater of all students, in order to a true brotherhood; but the Medical Students know that although they are affiliated to Dalhousie, she is no Alma Mater to them, for she does not, as a kind mother would, rear them to mental manhood, and confer upon them her Academic name. She is in fact merely a kind of temporary Wet Nurse,—a strong and healthy Wet Nurse to be sure. The Medical Faculty bring their Matriculants to her, she takes them in charge, but as she likes her own Arts boys better, the Medicals are no sooner old enough, and strong enough, than this hard-hearted Mother Dalhousie sends them away to foreign shores to seek Academic step-mothers, wheresoever they may chance to find them. *Ladies*,—I appeal to your woman's nature,—is this not an unwomanly and an unmotherly act. *Professors and Students*,—I appeal to your Academic sense, is it not un-academic? *Legislators, and People of Nova Scotia*,—is it not unpatriotic? What more does it need to condemn it! Where is the living mother in this house who would send away her child to another? Where is the professor who would send away his student to a rival? Where is the patriot in or out of the House of Assembly who would send a single young man out of the country if he could be educated as well at home? It is obvious that this system, while useful to our young men in its limited way, and better than no system at all, is yet not tending to build up our own Institution by permanently connecting with it as graduates those who receive its benefits.

But serious objections have been stated to the establishment of a complete Medical School.

The objections brought forward are these : (1.) The disabilities under which the medical profession laboured, in the absence of any legislative regulation for Anatomical study.

2nd. Deficiency of Hospital Facilities for clinical instruction.

3rd. Want of a sufficient number of competent medical men to undertake the work of teaching.

4th. Want of a sufficient number of students.

5th. Imperfect accommodation in the College building.

6th. Want of funds to provide necessary apparatus and a Medical Museum.

7th. Objections to Graduation or licensing.

The first objection is removed by the Anatomy Act.

The second—Deficiency of Hospital facilities—can only be removed by the establishment of a thorough Medical School. It cannot be expected that the Boards of Governors of Hospitals will make perfect arrangements for Hospital Teaching until there is sufficient demand for it. The objection, however, may refer to the small number of cases treated in our public institutions. If so, I think it can be clearly shown that there are greater facilities here, if they were available, for studying diseases, than in other cities where there are flourishing Medical Schools. In addition to the Provincial and City Hospital, there is the City Alms House with three or four hundred patients, half of them usually in the Hospital Wards, and also the City Dispensary, with its numerous visitors suffering under the less severe forms of disease. Besides these there are several other local institutions that might be mentioned, and also the Military and Naval Hospitals, which might probably be made available, to some extent, for the study as well as the cure of disease, if a full Medical School were established. There are other means also of studying disease, in the extensive private practice of the medical men of the city who may be connected with the school. There are the occasional arrivals of unfortunate vessels bearing the yellow flag. In fact, the opportunities for the study of disease are so ample, that, in a short time, through a little organization, the Faculty might place every student in the position of seeing more cases than he could either study or profit by.

It is a great mistake to look to the large hospitals of London and New York for comparison with our own. They have great value, it is true, in the large number of cases, and in the

opportunities afforded of seeing rare forms of disease and frequent operations, and to the medical man who has completed his course there can be no better theatre of observation ; but it is often far more useful to the young student to have his attention limited, in the first instance, to the study of a few appropriate cases, whose history he can follow out, instead of having his mind distracted, and the time which ought to be devoted to his classes occupied, in walking up and down hospital wards without a sufficiently definite object.

But, as regards the amplitude of facilities in Halifax, I gladly give way to an experienced medical man, and one not connected with the school.

Dr. Fraser, in his Presidential Address at the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Medical Society, held at Windsor, in July last, observed: "Halifax is a large city; it has a well ordered Hospital, managed by Medical Officers, all of good standing, a well conducted Dispensary, affording Medical and Surgical aid to thousands, and I know of no place where a young man wishing to avail himself of opportunities of acquiring knowledge in the profession of medicine, would spend his time with more advantage."

If we compare our possible facilities here with those of other cities in the Dominion where licensing Medical Schools are established, we shall find much cause for encouragement. For example at Kingston the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, although it has the advantages of an Asylum for the Insane and the Provincial Penitentiary, really depends for its clinical instruction upon the General Hospital, which, when the College began, was inferior to our Hospital, and even now has an average of only 60 occupied beds,—yet it has never been alleged that the Hospital teaching was insufficient, for the student, during his four year course has the opportunity, if he likes to avail himself of it, of watching the progress of 2000 patients who pass through the Hospital in the course of that time. No sooner was it found that the Hospital there could be made available for so important a purpose as the training of young medical men, than arrangements were made to facilitate this, and a wealthy citizen stepped forward and built a new wing to the Hospital, the Watkins Wing, with a large operating theatre to accommodate all the students. In fact, the presence of a Medical School gives a great stimulus to an Hospital, a new interest is created in the treatment of cases, and a rapid improvement is invariably the result. I alluded to Kingston as a city half the size of Halifax, with fewer medical men, and these not

superior to ours in professional character or social prestige, yet possessed of a Medical School that at one time proved itself second to no other in Canada in its effective teaching, until personal differences soured its Professors, and scattered many of its students. Whilst most of the students came from a distance, a large number in the city were enabled to obtain a professional training that would never otherwise have received it, and Kingston boys, rich and poor, had a professional career opened up which enabled them to make their way in the world, at home and abroad, and acquire professional distinction, instead of vegetating in some uncongenial pursuit and crowding local commerce.

Who would not like to see the young men of Halifax enjoy similar advantages?

The third objection,—want of men to undertake the work of teaching. There are several important chairs to be filled in order to complete the school,—for example, Theory and Practice of Physic, Surgery, Medical Jurisprudence, and probably chairs for special subjects, such as Insanity, Diseases of Eye and Ear, and a partial subdivision of those already taught. How are these places to be filled? If the Board of Governors had a flowing treasury, they might go to the great centres of intellectual activity, and tempt some enthusiastic specialists to come and fill these chairs; but it is not so. We must look to Members of the Profession in the Province, who are willing and can spare the time from their private practice, to undertake the work. This is the usual course in Medical Schools such as ours. The practitioners of Montreal supply McGill College with Medical Professors, from time to time, as vacancies occur; Queen's College is in the same way supplied from Kingston; and the Toronto Schools of Medicine by the city of Toronto. The Medical men of these cities have not been without their jealousies and bickerings, and, as the public well know, the Medical School is occasionally the bone of contention; but they are always found to unite together with a common object when the honor of their profession is at stake, and the system has worked well upon the whole, and is indeed the only practicable one. Now, we all know that there are not wanting in this Province men qualified by their training, experience and activity to occupy every chair which we require. The duties, it is true, are onerous, and the reward simply the sense of doing good; but we see the Medical men of our city devoting their days and nights to arduous labours for which they often receive neither fee nor thanks, and it may not be too much to expect that generous impulses may lead a larger

number to take an interest in our Medical School, when they find that steps are really being taken for its full development on a satisfactory basis. Medical men, like other professional men, take a pride in advancing their profession, and when our Board of Governors feel that matters are in a position to enable them to ask some of these gentlemen to share in the labour, need we fear the result when we reflect upon the personality of our governing body. A Doctor may steel his nerve in the presence of severe suffering when humanity requires, and men have been known to harden their hearts against the calls of patriotism and social duty ; but, with three Physicians on our Board whom every one respects, Dr. Avery, Dr. Forrest, Dr. Tupper, and with such a gush of persuasive eloquence as might come in unison from the lips of Young and Howe and Tupper,—what Medical or mortal man could our claims withstand !

Fourth objection,—want of students. That is removed by the nucleus of twenty-two students which we had last summer, and which will probably be increased this season. Certain it is that the completion of the school would bring a very large accession. It is observed in most of the Canadian Universities that the Medical Students largely outnumber those in Arts. The same is true in many of the Universities in the United States. In Dalhousie College we have upwards of sixty Arts Students ; and, should the Medical Students here have the same relation to the Arts which they do in other places, we ought to have at least a hundred medical students, not indeed at once, but in the course of a very few years.

During the past winter there have been attending the Harvard Medical School in Boston, 38 students from British America. Of these only one is from the Provinces of Old Canada, viz: Ontario and Quebec, showing that these Provinces, now well supplied with Medical Schools, keep their young men at home, and send only a few of the more wealthy ones to Europe. But Prince Edward Island has seven Medical Students at Boston, New Brunswick has nine, and Nova Scotia has no fewer than 21.

At McGill College, Montreal, there were, during the past winter, three Medical Students from Prince Edward Island, two from Newfoundland, one from New Brunswick, and five from Nova Scotia. Thus at these two schools alone—Boston and Montreal, there are forty-eight Medical Students from the Maritime Provinces, and twenty-six from Nova Scotia alone. If we were to analyze, in the same way, the lists of other Medical Schools, such as those of Edinburgh, London, Glas-

gow, Toronto, and the innumerable Schools throughout the States, we should find the number of Maritime Province students to be very large. That they are of good quality is shown by the positions they take. Dr. Holmes, at Harvard, told me that they get their very best students from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

With the facilities of Railway communication which we now have with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, we might depend upon receiving nearly all the Medical Students of these Provinces, and most of the Newfoundlanders, other things being equal, would likewise prefer to be taught in a British Colony, and as near as possible to their own home.

Then there are the large number of Druggists' Assistants, not in Halifax alone, but throughout the whole Province, to whom a winter's course of study, especially in *Materia Medica*, Medical Chemistry, Anatomy and Latin, would be of the greatest benefit, not to themselves alone, but to the public who depend upon their knowledge and accuracy in making up the prescriptions of physicians.

Whether we should receive students from the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the adjoining Republic, would depend upon the effectiveness of our teaching. Already our reputation in the Arts Faculty is beginning to tempt students from their own Universities in New Brunswick and far off Illinois; and while I feel confident that the Medical Faculty would in a few years, in the natural course of events, outstrip the Arts in the number of students, I feel equally confident that the doctors would let no Faculty beat them, arts or no arts, if hard work could gain the victory.

Fifth objection—Imperfect Accommodation. The extension of the school would at once remedy this evil, as, with a full winter session, the revenue would enable the Faculty to rent a suitable building.

Sixth—Apparatus and Museum. We are already possessed of the apparatus required for the Primary Classes; the wants of the additional classes may be provided for without any greater strain upon the Faculty than has been experienced in the past. At the same time it may be reasonably anticipated that, as we grow in usefulness, we shall grow in favour with the Legislature and other friends and patrons given to good deeds. Such has been the experience of other schools in other places.

The last objection refers to the propriety of the University exercising its right to grant Degrees in Medicine. This is a consideration of great importance, and one which involves

grave responsibility. It appears that the statutory regulations in regard to the license of Medical practitioners, are either faulty in themselves, or else have not been enforced in such a way as to secure perfect confidence; and it is said that the organization of a school that may teach imperfectly and examine imperfectly, and send abroad imperfect doctors, will only increase the existing evil. All this is, of course, self-evident, if the existing evil be capable of increase, and if, as many of our citizens practically believe, it is impossible to teach medicine, or examine students, or do anything else well in Halifax. As regards the present system, I cannot speak from personal knowledge; but the following extract from the last Report of the Nova Scotia Medical Society will place before us, in an authoritative form, the present position of the question, and enable us to judge of the possible effect of establishing a School and a Licensing Body:

“The Government should demand a sound preliminary and professional education before a license to practice is granted. The present law relating to the practice of medicine and surgery is practically useless, as the Board of Examiners do not examine Diplomas before they are registered.” And this is followed:

Whereas, The registration of medical practitioners in this Province, as at present carried on, does not discriminate between regular and irregular practitioners, and is no guarantee of the qualifications of practitioners of medicine and surgery,—

Resolved, That this Society would hail with pleasure any amendment of the Medical Act of Nova Scotia which would prevent the registration of other than properly qualified practitioners.”

That Report and that Resolution show matters, at present, to be in about as bad a condition as they well can be; the evil has grown so big that it fills all space, and has no room to grow larger. Surely the interests of the public, and the honor of the profession, require some change. Our point is, What will be the probable effect of a well regulated Medical School?

We can conceive the Legislature looking at the matter in this light: We do not provide any means of medical education in the Province; our young men must go to other countries for their training; we cannot dictate to them where they are to go; we must trust to their honor and the limits of their purse to regulate their medical education; and, as the Province fails in its duty to them, it must not look too curiously into their Diplomas.

Now this question of granting licenses is a matter of far too great importance to be left to any College. It must be settled between the Medical Profession of the Province, as repre-

sented by the Medical Society, or whatever is their competent representative body, on the one hand, and by the Legislature, as the Representatives of the people, on the other.

Let it be provided what Diplomas shall be recognized and what rejected, and in what way they are to be tested; but do not let the present unsatisfactory state of things be brought up as an argument against the proposal to establish a well regulated Medical School, for that is one of the most likely means to place the practice of the Profession on a satisfactory basis.

If the Medical Profession of this city and Province unite in establishing a complete Medical School, trustworthy in every respect, and which shall admit only students that have had a sound preliminary education, and shall provide them with a satisfactory course of instruction in the various departments of medicine; and if, besides means of instruction, there shall be established an unexceptionable Board of Examiners having the confidence of the Profession and the public,—and if the examinations are so conducted, in a uniform manner, as to be a thorough test of scholarship and Professional ability,—then it humbly appears to me to be the very remedy that is required to meet the great difficulty.

Let the Province do its duty to our young men. Let us not hold out to them, as we do at present, the temptation to run away to some distant College in the States, where the training may or may not be good, and the examination may or may not be mild, that they may return with their Diplomas, and register them at the Provincial Secretary's office. It is an injustice to those who are tempted to an imperfect training, and it is an injustice to those who undergo a thorough training, for they are apt not to get credit for it. Why, indeed, should we send our young men to a foreign country to ask leave to practice their profession among their brethren in their own native Province?

On the same principle we should send our fishermen, with stars and stripes flying, to buy an American license to permit them to fish in their own bays.

Western Canada perhaps erred as far in the other direction; she adopted a self-reliant, national policy in regard to medical practice, by refusing to recognize Medical Degrees, even from Harvard, New York, Philadelphia, and other foreign Universities, however respectable, and has thereby been enabled to build up her Medical Educational Institutions; but an extreme step like that is not necessary for carrying out the views that have been presented.

The establishment of a complete Medical School, whilst

chiefly beneficial to students, would bring several collateral advantages.

It must be obvious to every one who has any knowledge of, or has thought upon the subject, that no man can be a safe operator who does not keep up his anatomical knowledge; it is not only students, therefore, that derive benefit from a thoroughly equipped Medical School; it forms a centre for the members of the Faculty, and affords facilities for keeping up their knowledge, of very great convenience to themselves and benefit to the community whose health and lives depend upon them.

In the operating rooms, dissecting rooms, laboratories and class-rooms of Medical Schools, we constantly find medical men of all ages, whither they have repaired for refreshing draughts of knowledge. And so much is the necessity of this felt that in Ontario, at the present time, there is a movement on foot to increase facilities for anatomical study in distant parts of the country, where there are no Medical Schools, so that, in the words of a recent number of the Dominion Medical Journal, "the country may be supplied with a class of men prepared for any surgical emergency, and persons in remote parts would not be compelled to travel long distances, at great expense and inconvenience, to obtain in the large cities that surgical skill and tact which can only be maintained by constant reference to and practice upon the dead subject."

There is another advantage arising from a local Medical School. At present there are whole counties in Nova Scotia with scarcely a single medical practitioner. These would be supplied with young graduates, who, if they could not make a living in a thinly peopled district, would still be glad, for the sake of their own improvement, to take the practice for a time, and thus the inhabitants, at present without any medical resource, would have the benefit of their labours.

In conclusion, let me observe that, in organizing a new Institution like this, a good deal of self-denial is required. Personal interests and feelings and wishes must to some extent give way to the general good,—to the actual wants of the Institution; and where so many sacrifices have to be made, and so little appears even prospectively in the way of return, it need not to be wondered at if, in realizing our hope, we have a hard fight. Let each one do his duty, and feel that it is better to merit than even to attain success!

Of one thing I am thoroughly convinced, that it lies with the Medical Profession of this city to decide whether the city is to have a flourishing Medical School or no. If they

earnestly desire to have it, and unite heart and hand in that desire, what can prevent? But if the desire be too feeble to bind them together to carry out this great common object,—then—we shall not have it, and do not deserve to have it.

The Governors and Professors of Dalhousie College are actuated by a common motive, and have but one object,—the legitimate development, by open, straightforward, and honorable means, of a University that shall, in the fullest manner, meet the wants of the city and the Province, both in respect to Academic and Professional Education. And any body of professional men, prepared to establish any Professional Faculty, we shall only be too glad to meet in the most liberal spirit.

I have spoken frankly and freely,—more freely perhaps than some members of the profession may consider altogether proper in one who is not of their profession. If, in the course of my remarks, I may have incidentally trespassed the Code of Medical Ethics, let it be remembered that Chemistry and not Medicine, nor Ethics, is my department, and that the Code relates only to the duties of physicians to their patients and of patients to their physicians, and says nothing at all about what may or may not be said in an Inaugural Lecture by an irresponsible externe.

The Lecture, rather than its author, I would like to have regarded as the patient in this case. Make a careful diagnosis. If some of the arguments are thought to be plethoric, there are ready lancets at hand; use them unsparingly, and your scalpels besides. I hope there will be found some good development of muscle beneath, and a vein of truth running through the whole, which, if well followed up, may lead to some practical result.

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proper in one who is not of their profession. In the course
of my remarks, I may have incidentally trespassd the Code
of Medical Ethics, let it be remembered that Obstetrics and
not Medicine, nor Ethics, is my department, and that the Code
relates only to the duties of physicians to their patients and
of patients to their physicians, and says nothing at all about
what may or may not be said in an inaugural lecture by an
irresponsible extempore.

The Lecture, rather than its author, I would like to have
regarded as the patient in this case. Make a careful diagnosis.
If one of the arguments are thought to be platonic, there
are ready hands at hand; use them unparingly, and your
scalpels besides. I hope there will be found some good develop-
ment of muscle beneath, and a vein of truth running through
the whole, which, if well followed up, may lead to some practical
result.