

Queens University
Proceedings of convocation.

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PROCEEDINGS OF CONVOCATION.

HELD

30th March, 1865,

FOR

Conferring Degrees in Medicine.

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GRADUATION IN MEDICINE.

A meeting of Convocation of Queen's University was held in Convocation Hall on Thursday afternoon for the purpose of conferring Degrees upon those students who had completed their curriculum and passed the customary written and oral examinations. By the hour appointed for the commencement of proceedings—three o'clock—the students of the graduating class had arranged themselves on the front seats of the room, robed in their gowns and otherwise prepared for what, no doubt, was to them in particular a very interesting occasion. Immediately behind the budding doctors were their fellow-students from all the faculties, and in rear of these an assemblage of the public, in which ladies formed a preponderating part. The Hall was very much thronged, perhaps never more so, for the fine spring day favoured the turnout of the fair sex in their most brilliant attire, so that the scene was of a very animated description. The Rev. Dr. Snodgrass, Principal, and the Professors and Examiners, entered in a body (the students standing) and took their seats on the platform, the Principal entering his rostrum. Of these there were the Rev. Dr. Williamson, Professor of Mathematics; the Rev. John B. Mowat, M.A., Professor of Oriental Languages, &c.; the Rev. J. C. Murray, Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy; Robert Bell, F.G.S., Professor of Chemistry and Natural History; Rev. J. H. McKerras, M.A., Interim Professor of Classical Literature; Dr. Horatio Yates, Professor of the Practice of Medicine; Dr. Fowler, Professor of Materia Medica; Dr. Litchfield, Professor of Forensic and State Medicine; Dr. Lavell, Professor of Obstetrics; Dr. Kennedy, Professor of Anatomy; Dr. O. Yates, Professor of Surgery; Dr. Maclean, Professor of Institutes of Medicine;

and Dr Sullivan, Demonstrator of Anatomy. The Hon. John Hamilton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John Paton, Esq., of the Board, the Rev. R. V. Rogers, Rural Dean, the Rev. Mr Gemley, Rev. Mr Mulkins, Rev. Mr Bell, and other gentlemen were provided with seats on the platform.

The Principal opened proceedings with prayer. The Registrar (Prof. Murray) was then called upon to read the minutes of the last meeting of Convocation and the report of the Senate recommending the different gentlemen for the degree of M.D. The minutes having been adopted, the Registrar next proceeded to administer the Sponsio Academica to the intending graduates which was repeated simultaneously in Latin. The following is a close translation :—

“I, A—— B——, now to receive the title of Doctor of Medicine, promise in the presence of the Holy God, the Searcher of Hearts, that to the end of my life I shall continue in all duties of kindly affection to this University; and, moreover, that I shall practice the Medical Art cautiously, virtuously, and honourably, and, as far as in me lies, perform with fidelity everything conducive to the health of the sick; and in fine that I shall not without important reason make public anything, that may be seen or heard while healing, which it may be becoming to keep silent. In testimony of which I subscribe my signature.”

A promise of this kind is usually exacted at most Universities, but this, we believe, was the first occasion of such a subscription being required at Queen's University.

The ceremony of laureation came next in order. The Principal and the Dean of the Medical Faculty (Dr. H. Yates) came forward to the front of the dais. Each graduate was called up in alphabetical order by the Dean and addressed in a Latin formula, after which the Principal conferred the rights, privileges, and immunities of the Degree of Doctor of Medicine upon him; and giving the command, *Genua flecte*, the graduate knelt on the crimson cushion, the academic cap was placed upon his head for an instant, and he rose at the words from the Principal, *Surge, Medicinæ Doctor*. The Principal then extended

the right hand of fellowship, the Dean put on his shoulders the professional hood, and the Secretary handed him his diploma, after which he was conducted to the Registrar's table to make subscription in the University book to the promise which he had previously spoken. The following gentlemen received the degree of M.D. in order :—

DOCTORS OF MEDICINE.

John Agnew, B.A., Kingston.
 Alexander Bell, Perth.
 John Bigham, Orono.
 Surgeon Major Bowen, Rifle Brigade.
 George Deans, Trenton (not present).
 Thomas T. C. Harrison, Selkirk (not present).
 David Heggie, Brampton.
 Alfred J. Horsey, Kingston.
 Edwin H. Kertland, Wolfe Island.
 John Massie, Seymour.
 Alexander McLaren, Williamstown.
 James B. Morden, Bloomfield.
 James Neish, Kingston.
 Richard A. Reeve, B.A., Toronto.
 Thomas B. Tracy, Kingston.
 William J. Weekes, Lyn.

John Bell, B.A., also passed the necessary examinations, and will receive the degree on reaching the required age of 21 years.

After the conferring of the degrees the graduates received the congratulations of their Professors. It was announced that the following gentlemen had passed in the subjects of the Primary Examination :—

PRIMARY STUDENTS.

Alfred Armstrong, Kingston.
 William Beattie, Kingston.
 Joseph Campbell, Perth.
 Charles Lake, Murvale.
 James Sommerville, Kingston.

The Principal then addressed the graduates as follows :—Gentlemen, Graduates in Medicine : At this auspicious moment of your lives I offer you my cordial congratulations. For a term of years you have been devoting yourselves to a particular department of study, and now you have attained the highest distinction which, in that department,

it is in the power of this University to dispense. This is the first occasion I have had to discharge the very pleasing duty of formally conferring degrees, and I consider myself peculiarly fortunate, inasmuch as I have the unanimous and repeated assurance of the Professors who have instructed you and of the Examiners who have scrutinized your graduation papers, to the effect that as you have all along distinguished yourselves by your diligent application to the work of your classes, so at the close of your curriculum you have acquitted yourselves in the prescribed examinations in a most creditable manner. Your reward, besides being that of men who are honoured by the faithful performance of their duty, consists in this, that you go forth from these academic halls, not only fully accredited to the profession with which you are now connected, and to the public for whose benefit you are henceforth to labour, but also in the enjoyment of the confidence of those, who from their superintendence of your medical education, have had the best opportunities of judging of the ability and integrity with which your professional career is likely to be characterized. I thank you for your studious behaviour, your exemplary zeal, your earnest perseverance, your eminently satisfactory graduation. I thank you for the inheritance of wholesome influence which you leave behind you to encourage and stimulate your successors towards a like honourable and happy termination of their collegiate course. To-day, gentlemen, you pass from the college class-room to the stage of public life, from the learner's seat to the practitioner's circuit, from the rank of students to the status of professional men. What does this transition mean? It means much or little according to the conceptions we form of that line of demarcation, the existence of which makes it possible to think of the transition as actual. Does the ground of separation, whether narrow or broad, indeed divide things which are distinguishable—things which it is of practical importance and utility to distinguish and keep apart? Then, and to an extent corresponding to the relative diversity of the two ranks or spheres, the transition is a reality. Is the ground of separation

merely arbitrary or conventional, with no good and sufficient reason assignable for its existence? Then is the transition a purely imaginary step. Now there is a mode of viewing the matter which is popular and loose, and there is a mode of viewing it which is exact and proper. The more thoughtless and superficial opinion is that to-day, as you bid adieu to this seat of learning, you are done with the taskwork of the student; and that, having received the diploma which attests your qualifications, and contains your legal right and title to engage in the practice of medicine, the only course which is now before you lies in the application of the knowledge, be it much or little, which you have received, to the end that you may cure or alleviate the various ills to which flesh is heir. Gentlemen, from the good report which has been given of your career as students I am persuaded that you know better than to allow your judgment even for one moment to coincide with this opinion. So true is it that the professional man is in the student, that from what one is and does in the latter capacity, it may, with exceptional cases which are very rare, be predicted with certainty what one will be and do in the former—whether he will rise to eminence and distinction, or spend his days known only to a few friends and patients who have no particular reason for preferring his services except that they are conveniently near or acceptably cheap. And, on the other hand, so true is it that the student is in the professional man, that it may be confidently affirmed of him who ceases to be a student that he is qualifying himself to degrade and dishonour his profession. I trust you will love your noble calling too well, and you will have too high a regard for its beneficent purposes, ever to bring upon it the disrepute which must inevitably follow such a course. It is your interest as well as your duty, all your lives long, to combine the ardour of the earnest student with the enthusiasm of the zealous professional man. If you have ever any feeling that your profession needs protection, here—in the diligence of continued study combined with strict probity of practice—you will find the first and most efficient means both of protection and elevation. And be encouraged to pursue

your way in this direction by the nature of the field to which it conducts. Great and rapid as is the advancement which has hitherto been attained in medical science, there is still a path of progress before it, inviting you to enter and win the laurels which are due to successful competition. Wonderful as are the discoveries which have hitherto been made, there are still more astonishing revelations awaiting your efforts to unfold them. High as are the distinctions which some of the more illustrious members of your profession have gained, there are still some by which your names may be adorned and your lives rendered a blessing to mankind. Let your profession be your kingdom. In the fear of God, and trusting to the divine blessing on your endeavors, strive to get possession of your kingdom, making it your ambition to be, not merely subjects of it, but rulers over it. Then will everything else which you require, as a means of promoting your influence and adding to your comfort, follow as a matter of course, from this mastering of your position; and whatever reason others may have to complain of disappointed expectations and inadequate rewards, believe me, you will have none.

Finally, in the name of your Professors and of the authorities of this University, I bid you an affectionate farewell, and make it my earnest prayer that He who is the length of our days and the guide of our lives, may provide for each of you a sphere of labor in every way suited to your capacities, calculated to encourage your zeal, and instrumental by your improvement of it in securing your comfort and happiness; and let me bespeak from you such an interested and lasting remembrance of your *alma mater* as will prompt you to embrace any opportunity which may ever occur of furthering her welfare and prosperity.

Dr. Reeve was next called upon to deliver a Valedictory. He spoke as follows:—Principal, There are events, sir, in the lives of all that engender feelings of peculiar pleasure and lively interest, and assuredly the present is to us one of these, an occasion ever to be remembered by those who with it terminate their collegiate days. Though years have passed since you

were ranked among collegians, alive to all the fears and animated by all the hopes peculiar to such a life, we do not doubt that you can fully appreciate those emotions that influence us at this time, when, after years of diligent application, we receive from you that honour for which we have been eagerly striving—the Degree of Doctor of Medicine. Recently in the enjoyment of the quiet pleasures of a pastoral life, you have been transferred to the occupancy of the Principal's chair—a post requiring the exercise of unusual tact and administrative ability—and it may prove a slight source of gratification to you to learn that our short acquaintance has but served to strengthen the desire to become more fully acquainted with you. And now, sir, in bidding you farewell, we take this last opportunity of tendering you our warmest thanks for the courteous bearing and kindly manner you have ever exercised towards us, as well whilst mingling in social intercourse as in the discharge of the important duties incumbent upon your position.

Gentlemen of the Medical Faculty, We cannot refrain from referring with an expression of our sincere and hearty thanks to that manifestation of personal interest in the welfare and progress of your students which is so marked a feature in the economy of this school, whilst the ability, assiduity, and self-sacrifice that have characterized your efforts as instructors merit our warmest encomiums. Do not for a moment think that we address you in terms of fulsome compliment or of empty flattery. We think too highly of you. Nor would the occasion permit to indulge in such meaningless forms. Moreover, we would not forget that none but they who fill the chairs of our academies of learning can form any just conception of the tax upon the mental and physical systems occasioned by the constant study and extensive reading necessary to fit them for the proper discharge of the duties incident to their position, nor in addition would we be unmindful of the fact that in your department of collegiate education the pressing cares and constant anxieties of a professional life often in themselves are enough to engross one's whole attention. Books are invaluable to the

student. They furnish him with the results of the patient investigations and elaborate researches of the master minds of the profession, but unfortunate truly are those who rely solely upon their acquaintance with these; and in this age of progress and invention, when the microscope with its astounding revelations and the varied other mechanical and chemical appliances are being extensively employed by the devotees of learning in their enquiries after truth—in this age of bookmaking, when cultivators of science record with the utmost exactness the veriest minutiae of discovery—the necessity, greater than ever, is felt of having those who are themselves familiar with the great truths of science, and well versed in its details, to generalize and simplify, and to guide the student to the best advantage through the labyrinths of knowledge. We have to congratulate ourselves upon having secured for our instructors those who, whilst appreciating the value of sound theory, have ever dwelt forcibly upon the advantages of practical knowledge, and have encouraged and fostered in us those powers of observation and reflection, by the well directed exercise of which scholars in medical science have elevated her to the position she now occupies. The minute structure and wondrous organization of the human system, in its aggregate of muscle, nerve, vessel, and other tissue, displaying in a manner that awakens equally our astonishment and our admiration, evidences of design and of the adaptation of means to end, and requiring the assistance of the microscope to unfold all the beauty and symmetry that characterize its constituent elements; an accurate and comprehensive description of the varied resources at the disposal of the medico for the relief of distress and alleviation of human suffering; the properties and functions, in their natural and abnormal conditions, of the individual elements of the composite being, with the elucidations of the physiologist and pathologist; disease in its protean forms, its nature, causes, effects, and the appliance of remedial agents in arresting its progress and staying its ravages;—these and other kindred subjects, forming the most interesting and ennobling theme upon which the mind can

dwell, save only that which has for its subject the immortal principle of man, have shared our mutual attention during our attendance here. And can it be that those who have been thus engaged together for such a length of time should separate other than the best of friends? ✓

We shall ever hold in grateful recollection your constant endeavour to give a practical turn to our characters and to enrich our minds from the ample stores of your extended experience; and as we part from the Academic Halls to test the real worth of the principles you have repeatedly inculcated, and the doctrines you have stately set forth in your class-teachings, in the discharge of the active duties of a professional career if they prove of effective service—as we think they will—this sense of gratefulness will be materially strengthened. Often have we felt discouraged, often experienced secret forebodings as to our aptness for the study and fitness for the practise of the healing art, but as frequently have we been reassured by the consideration that long since misgivings of a similar nature have been forgotten by yourselves in the realization of your present success.

✧ We recall with pleasure the happy manner in which you have ever combined the forbearance of friendship with the correctness of discipline; that you have ever acted in harmony with our best interests; and that whilst maintaining your professional dignity you have discarded much of that reserve and hauteur which too frequently act as a barrier to the progress of collegians. Indeed, gentlemen, anxiety to please those who have ever taken a strong interest in our proficiency has many a time acted as a fresh incentive to the prosecution of a study which in itself presents sufficient attractions and offers ample inducements for close and unremitting application. Gentlemen, we are proud to rank ourselves among those who have profited by your instructions; and though to-day the relation of Professor and Student ceases to exist between us, we feel confident we can recognize in you those who will ever be ready to afford us counsel and advice in times of perplexity and doubt.

We bid you farewell, sincerely wishing that each succeeding academic year may witness

assembled here an increased number of those who are desirous of availing themselves of your tuition, and of the advantages unrivalled, if equalled, by those of any other School of Provincial repute—earnestly wishing that that reciprocity of feeling and unity of action that have marked our intercourse, may characterize the relationships which shall hereafter subsist between yourselves and your pupils.

Fellow-Graduates, We have to-day been the happy recipients of one of the highest gifts in the power of a University to confer, and one which, while life's checkered scenes are unfolded before us, will lose none of the value which now enhances it, none of the responsibility incurred in receiving it. On this the last occasion in all human probability in which we shall be assembled together, reminiscences of the past pass in quick succession before us; our thoughts revert to the many pleasant and profitable hours spent side by side in listening to the instructions of our respected professors, to the constant interchange of those opinions and expression of those views which are the offspring alone of a college life. Though we may at times have been engaged in the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties, we recollect with pleasure that during our collegiate career nothing has occurred to lessen our mutual regard or destroy the respect we entertain for one another. This afternoon we are convened in convocation in the quiet old town of Kingston. In a few hours, as if by magic power, hundreds of miles will separate us, and whether it be to repair to the scenes of a fratricidal war to reap the advantages accruing to our profession from such a source, or to seek those world-renowned seats of learning in the mother country, or to engage in the practice of medicine in the various localities of our own Province, we feel assured that a feeling of sympathy and brotherhood will never be effaced from our hearts. Wherever we go, let us remember that the prosperity of this school depends in great measure on the goodly reputation of her graduates; let us remember that our Alma Mater looks with anxious pride to those who are now leaving her embrace to maintain the character of her alumni, already well estab-

lished for soundness of principle and usefulness of life. Let it be our life-resolve—by the probity of our character, the integrity of our purpose, and our constant cultivation of scientific knowledge—to dispel those false views and erroneous impressions regarding our profession which have impaired the usefulness and saddened the heart of many a true son of Æsculapius. Let us do our part towards preserving the dignity and importance of the profession, and if, as we may individually pursue our investigations, our views come to be at variance, let us agree to differ rather than indulge in that personal vituperation and harsh wrangling which we are sorry to confess so frequently form the accompaniments of scientific controversies. Ours will not be lives of ease or self-aggrandizement, but of responsibility, of anxiety, and of devotion to the well-being of others; but we firmly believe that the gratitude of those to whose necessities we may administer—the support and approbation of the communities in which we may reside—the inward consciousness of having well performed one's share of life's duties—and finally, and better than all, the approving smile of Him whose mission when sojourning amongst men was to heal all manner of sickness—these will amply repay us for our toil and self-sacrifice.

Professor Fowler then delivered the customary farewell address at the close of the session, which is delivered in rotation by the different members of the Medical Faculty. He said:—Gentlemen—Having been appointed to deliver to you a short address upon the present occasion, I proceed to do so with great pleasure. It is now ten years since degrees in medicine were first conferred at this University. Since that time how many, very many changes, have we all witnessed. The graduates claiming Queen's College as their Alma Mater are scattered far and wide. Some are found in Australia, others in England, some in California, others in British Columbia. Many are found in the American army, striving to undo to some extent the mischief caused by the sword, the bullet, and the pestilence.

“The wise physician skilled our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal.”

Many are settled in quiet country homes,

and the lively boys we once knew have become staid country gentlemen. Some I see on the platform beside me; two are fellow labourers with me now. Alas, many of our students and graduates have gone to their long homes, and sleep in the quiet churchyard. You are now about to reduce to practice the knowledge you have acquired here and elsewhere to practise a profession which is respected far and wide. Now that the tie hitherto existing between you as students and us as teachers is about to be severed, I confidently trust that you go from our midst not only well furnished with sound, useful information regarding the science of medicine, but also with minds well disciplined and evenly balanced. This is in fact one great object of study. The importance of training the mind to correct habits of thought cannot be over-estimated, and in no walk of life is it more necessary than in the practice of the profession of medicine. Storing the mind with facts is not only desirable but necessary, but facts of themselves, however, are of little value till they are worked on by the intellect, just as food taken into the stomach cannot serve any useful purpose till it has been digested and become a part of the body. It is desirable above all things that the mind should be strong and capable of digesting facts presented to it, rejecting the crudities and assimilating that which is suitable and beneficial. There are of course many important facts connected with the particular walk of life in which individuals are placed which it is essential should be stored up, but it is vastly more important that the mind should be strong than full; far better is it for a man to have a well disciplined mind, with few facts to work on, than to be a mere walking encyclopædia; just as it is much better to have a good digestion and meagre fare, than to be incapable of digesting anything, although in a position to feast like a Lentulus. The mind is undoubtedly best disciplined and prepared for studying causes and effects, the bearing of one fact on another, correct habits of observation are best formed, and a facility of expressing ideas correctly and lucidly acquired by a previous systematic application to the study of mathe-

matics and classical literature, and it is to the want of this preliminary training that we must ascribe the great obstacles which many meet with not only while here engaged in the study of their profession, but also in after life. Such cannot, except with great difficulty, concentrate their thoughts upon any subject so as to master it thoroughly. Such are apt to lay hold upon one particular fact, to the exclusion of others equally if not more important. Such are apt to pounce on a mere sequence, feeling assured, and acting on the assurance, that it is an effect of something which occurred or was done previously. Such do not generalize well and cannot see well the bearing of one thing on another. In a comparatively new country like Canada those who commence the study of medicine with a deficient preliminary training are more numerous than in such a country as England, where the state of society is more fixed, where a certain class almost exclusively claims the learned professions as their birthright, and where it is scarcely possible for a mechanic, a ploughman, or a woodchopper, to find admission into any of the learned professions. Many such have come here unable, because of their age or limited means, to enter into the ranks with schoolboys, and obliged either to forego the perhaps long-cherished desire of rising above their fellows or to commence the study of a profession and the training of their minds simultaneously; and mayhap this last not in the most orthodox manner. That is a dangerous experiment and desperate uphill work; the difficulties met with in concentrating the thoughts, grasping the right kind of knowledge, and applying it advantageously, are very great, and often insuperable; but these difficulties have been overcome by determined, resolute men. Such have gone from here and elsewhere—are judicious, intelligent and enlightened practitioners, doing their part nobly in the battle of life, labouring to gain and maintain a respectable position for themselves, and at the same time to benefit their fellow-creatures. The necessity and at the same time dignity of labour cannot be too much kept in view. I do not refer merely to bodily labour. It is a sad spectacle to see a man, especially a young man, with

a disinclination to work of any kind, vegetating, yawning his days away in a manner which we cannot even call masterly inactivity. Does it not serve such a one right if his body and what mind he has rebels against such usage, and if the world goes against him? Labour is the lot of man, and when properly regulated, the fruits of it are not only profitable but sweet. Labour conquers all things. Napoleon told his generals to banish the word "impossible." It is on patient labour in the busy scenes of life that your success, to a great extent, as practitioners will depend. Rarely is eminence gained by a single bound. You must be persevering, industrious, hopeful and patient. Talk of genius—God forbid I should undervalue it; but if it gives an idea that its possession makes you independent of work, you are far better without it. Even amongst poets, where it might be supposed that genius ought greatly to predominate and labour occupy a subordinate position, labour is an acknowledged necessity. Johnson sat down to compose doggedly and with determination. Rousseau studied his compositions with the greatest care, wrote and re-wrote words and sentences, before sending his productions before the world. Byron did likewise. He at one time was sailing in company with Mr Trelawney past the shores of Italy on his way to Greece. He uttered some sentiments regarding the affairs of Italy, and the state of the parties in Rome, which Mr T., his companion, was desirous to see expressed in the glowing lines which Byron knew so well how to produce. He was entreated to turn them into poetry, and Mr Trelawney left him for one or two hours busily employed on the deck, but the verses did not come at the bidding of the bard. He gnashed his teeth, tore up what he had written, saying, "To extempore verse is nonsense; you might as well whistle for a wind. I must chew the cud before I can write." Labour then; be industrious; fear not small obstacles—think they were merely made to be overcome; cry not, there is a lion in the way, and your success as physicians will be sure. The capacity for work varies greatly in different individuals; some have it only in a slight degree; others can perform a fabulous

amount of labor day by day during a long lifetime without the slightest apparent detriment, either to their bodily or mental powers. Lord Brougham is an eminent example of great endurance under an immensity of work. But this is not almost the case—the body and often the mind breaks down under the strain of continuous labor. We have many melancholy examples of this in history and biography, but perhaps none more so than in the lives of Sir Walter Scott and Hugh Miller—hence the necessity of relaxation.

“ A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the wisest men.”

The relaxations of labourers vary much, according to their several tastes and dispositions. It matters little what they are, if they only are of an innocent character. Scott used sometimes to steal away from Abbotsford early in the morning, mounted on horseback, with a dog or two at his heels, to partake of the simple enjoyments found in Lockhart's cottage. It would have been well for him had he done it oftener. Pitt, who ruled England so long, used to play with young people like a little boy, defending his face as best he could from being blackened by the burnt cork with which his youthful antagonists were armed. Often relaxation can be obtained by varying the occupation. One wearied with the study of mathematics will often feel fresh for classical literature. One wearied with the study of disease will turn with zest to the study of insect or vegetable life; but a mind or body thoroughly worn out by incessant labour cannot safely be so treated. The spur may for a time enliven the jaded horse, but the temporary energy infused into him is dearly won; he wants the pasture field. Study or any form of nervous stimulant may for a time restore to the finely-balanced mind its wonted powers, but it is the green pastures and still waters that are required. Better, far better, would it be for such a one to be travelling the country like a mountebank, swallowing swords and vomiting forth the devouring element, than to be thus slowly but surely destroying the mind and body.

There is a matter to which I would shortly advert—it is universally acknowledged to be

well worthy of attention. It can never be too much impressed upon us that man is apt to become a creature of habit—apt to degenerate into a mere machine, moving without any regard to varying circumstances. While warned against the formation of habits which we have no desire should control us, we are encouraged to promote in ourselves and others such habits as we will never be ashamed of, satisfied that soon they will be no burden to us, but profitable and pleasant, such as habits of careful observation, habits of doing what is right and honourable—believing firmly that the purest treasure mortal times afford is spotless reputation; that away, men are but gilded loam or painted clay—habits of punctuality, attention to business, promptitude, not leaving undone till to-morrow what should be done to-day. Procrastination is the thief of time—“Collar him,” Dickens makes one of his characters say. Both mind and body are greatly influenced by the nature of the habits formed in early life. It must needs be that the mind and body of man act reciprocally on each other, that effects upon each of a varied and extraordinary kind may oftentimes be unexpectedly produced. While a twinge of the toothache may bring a philosopher to the level of a washerwoman, on the other hand the mind elevated by hope and faith has sustained the bodies of martyrs under the severest agonies, and even for a season kept the King of Terrors at bay. Who has better opportunities than the Physician of studying this relationship between the mental and corporeal parts of our frames?

The varying cares and troubles that every period of life from youth to old age, the anxieties of worldly business, domestic cares and a host of minor sorrows and chagrins that dog the steps of man, tending to disarrange the functions of life, come daily under the notice of the Physician. It has been well said, as the hardest rock may either be rent in pieces by the explosion of the ignited mine or be gradually worn away by the ceaseless dropping of water, so may the strongest frame either be shattered by the whirlwind of passion or decay under the slow operation of incessant disquietude. You have to-day promised solemnly not to divulge except in case of grave necessity any secrets you may learn professional-

ly. I earnestly beg of you to pray for strength to keep this promise. There are many temptations to break it thrown in the way of young men. The desire to please others, the pride felt in disclosing that they have under their care important cases, besides the circumstance that young men have not been accustomed to keep secrets and often feel oppressed till they can tell them as a great secret to others. There are many circumstances which are divulged to Physicians in confidence or come to their knowledge accidentally, which it would be most extreme cruelty to divulge to any one. Parents have often no other friend to whom they can confide their troubles than the Doctor, and there are many diseases of such a nature that the Doctor must know circumstances bearing on them the divulging of which will cause intense grief and shame. I rejoice to think that no general charge can be brought against the profession on this score. On the other hand multitudes of families have reason to bless their Doctors for maintaining inviolable secrets which if divulged would disturb the peace of mind of many good, many innocent individuals. From what I know of you, gentlemen, I feel that there is no need to urge this matter on you: your own sense of honour and kindly feelings will prompt you to fulfil faithfully the obligations you have this day come under. Although our relations as teachers and pupils are now at an end, we trust you will when brother practitioners continue to regard us as friends. I well know I will be borne out by my fellow teachers when I say that it will give us great pleasure to hear of your welfare and forward your interests. Although you now leave this University to return to it as students no more, I hope you will cherish a warm affection for your Alma Mater, that you will consider yourselves Members of this University, that you will feel pride in its prosperity as we assuredly will in yours, that you will act as champions for it, defending it when assailed and resenting any aspersions cast on it as you would on yourselves, And as year by year these convocations are held, you will if not present bodily be so in spirit, rejoicing with and welcoming with hearty good will the fresh accessions to your ranks. Now, gentlemen, I trust you will always look back on

the time you spent here as a profitable and pleasing one. Many almost instinctively throw their minds back on the past. Some in so doing cause the past to come up so vividly before them as to darken the countenance with sorrow or gladden it with smiles. Even the lisping child can conjure up the pleasures of yesterday—the schoolboy thinks with glee of his youthful frolics. What a gush of pleasure there is when those who were at College together recount the pleasing scenes of the past.

“Thrice we fought our battles o’er, and thrice we slew the slain.”

“T’is sweet to remember I would not forget
The charm which the past o’er the present can
throw.”

Happy is he who can look back and smile.

The Principal then rose and addressing the general audience said—Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the interest you evince by your presence in the progress of medical education. We are all so much indebted to the healing art, and unfortunately are so often in the doctors’ hands, that none of us can afford to look upon the advancement of medical instruction or its results with indifference. Considering these things I often think it strange that so little public interest is manifested in the due organization and equipment of medical schools—that we hear of few encouragements offered to stimulate those students who earnestly apply themselves to medical pursuits—not merely few compared with inducements offered in other departments, but extremely few by themselves—no bursaries, no scholarships, no prizes. To-day, I am happy to say, it is in my power to give an indication of a change for the better as regards this University, an indication which I do not consider a slight one, especially when I feel disposed to regard it as but the beginning of munificent offers of the same kind from other sources.

He then announced a prize of \$50 offered by Mr John Carruthers for the best essay on the sources and uses of Petroleum and other Hydrocarbon oils, with observations on the best modes of obtaining and transporting them, special reference being had to Canada—open for com-

petition to all matriculated students of the University in the session 1865-66. Also from another quarter, a prize of \$30 for the best essay on Metastasis considered in relation to rheumatism, pyæmia, and cancer, open to all matriculated medical students of the University in the session 1865-66. The essays are to be given in to the Registrar not later than the first Monday of November next, authors' names to be given in sealed envelopes attached to their respective essays. The Principal expressed the hope that at the Convocation at the close of the session some additional prizes of the same kind would be offered for competition in the Faculties of Arts and Theology.

After the benediction by the Principal the meeting dispersed.



