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GENTLEMEN,—I appear to-day in a capacity which I have never before sought to fill, having had nothing new to tell my colleagues or professional friends who might honour me with their presence, and feeling that I at least was unable to teach students anything of professional matters or professional morals in an introductory lecture. Having, however, just returned from a marvellous country, I thought a brief account of the state of our profession there might not be uninteresting, although it be hastily gathered and fragmentary.

In America, the licensing bodies are, without a single exception, teaching bodies as well. This is as it should be, provided the teachers are not the sole examiners, and that they do not examine the candidates separately and privately, as is usually the case. No examinations were held while I was in the country; but I heard that they were not as stringent as most of ours, and that the proportion of the rejected was much smaller. There are about forty universities and colleges in the United States which license practitioners. The sole title conferred is that of M.D., and this tends to prevent the unwise separation of medicine and surgery, which should be studied and practised, at least at the outset, together. In Canada, as in other of our colonies, associations of medical men are permitted by Government to examine and register those about to settle, or to reject those who do not possess a diploma or who fail to pass a practical examination. In Ontario province an Act has just passed which amalgamates all the eight licensing bodies. This affords a precedent for the State examination or single portal, which last session it was attempted to establish with us. I regret to say that, in some such examining boards in America, half the examiners are homœopaths; and in one there are in equal numbers regular practitioners, homœopaths, and eclectics, persons who profess to select what is best from each system—their guiding principles, however, not being apparent. That it is somewhat risky to inquire, appears from the following instance. The leading physician of a large city agreed to meet an eclectic if he would produce his diplomas. Pulling from his pocket a "double qualification," in the shape of a brace of revolvers, the eclectic swore he should either consult with him or fight him. With so many separately governed States, it would be difficult to establish a general body to control the profession—such a body as our Medical Council ought to be. One thing is certain, that in such a body the election of its members would be placed in the hands of the profession. The persistent refusal of our Government to concede this right made the Medical Bill of last session deservedly unpopular. The omission of the eighteenth clause made the measure so useless, the modes of admission remaining as numerous as ever, and such unfair advantages were conferred on the universities over the licensing colleges—especially that with which all my interests are identified—that I heard with the liveliest satisfaction of the withdrawal of the Bill on July 26th.

Every well-wisher of his profession must feel it his duty to oppose any measure of medical reform which does not alter the constitution of the Medical Council, enact the "one portal", and protect the Colleges of Surgeons who have had originally the conduct of surgical education, who have never imposed illiberal restrictions, and in whose hands exclusively it might well remain. The following numbers from the *Boston Directory* for the present year will give a fair estimate of the status of the profession. In this most intellectual of American cities there are two hundred and forty-one regular physicians—that is, members of the Massachusetts Medical Society—forty homœopaths, eleven eclectics, and fifty-five female physicians.

I have now to mention a few of the medical institutions of the country; and, firstly, the Museum at Washington, which excels anything of the kind in Europe. This will appear to you from these splendid photographs, some hundreds of which have been presented to our College of Surgeons by the United States Surgeon-General; and I am happy to say that he informed me of his intention of sending many others accordingly as they are published. Some of these pictures show great

artistic ingenuity; for instance, that in which both aspects of the body were taken by the aid of a mirror. All the injured parts from those killed in the War, and the parts removed from the wounded, are preserved; and in the latter case, most accurate records of their histories are kept. About one hundred clerks in the building keep the pension-lists, and the progress of any case can thus be most easily traced. Many of the surgeons of the American hospitals send preparations, so that the collection is rapidly increasing. There are the preparations and photographs of the eight successful amputations through the hip which were performed in the war. I examined one of the porters of the museum from whose arm seven inches and a half of the humerus had been excised with wonderful success, for a most useful and very slightly shortened limb remains. The collection of crania is immense, and all are computed by the relative position of the foramen magnum—the test of development which Dr. Otis, the learned curator, regards as most accurate. The greater splintering of the inner table he has shown to depend on the lesser force of the ball; for, if this be shot from within outwards, the outer table splinters more. Besides ordinary photographs, there are a vast number of sun-pictures of objects and tissues magnified by the solar microscope, and taken under the superintendence of Lieut.-Colonel Woodward, M.D., the medical curator, so well known for his work on the diseases of the American campaign. The building was formerly Ford's Theatre, in which that most lamentable crime, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, was committed. The medical museum at Boston is also most excellent, and it illustrates the greatest case of the retention of human life under terrific injury ever recorded. An Irish labourer was ramming powder with a crowbar into a hole in a rock about to be blasted. The powder exploded, and the crowbar (four feet long and two and a half inches in circumference) passed below and behind the orbit, through the skull, and out through the interparietal suture, and twenty feet into the air above. The brain projected considerably; yet, notwithstanding this fearful injury, the man survived in good health for twelve years and a half. A photograph of the skull and the crowbar forms the frontispiece of the catalogue, of which this copy was lent to me by Professor R. W. Smith, whose splendid writings are as well known in America as they are in the University which he adorns, or in the Pathological Society which owes its existence to him. This preparation surpasses in wonder that in the museum of the London College of Surgeons, of the chest of a man transfixed from one armpit to the other by the shaft of a gig—an injury survived for ten years. The museum just named, as well as that of our College, vastly surpasses any anatomical collection in America, and probably I may add, or elsewhere.

The Harvard University near Boston is the oldest and most flourishing of the American seats of learning; the number of professors being about sixty, and the students one thousand. Among its medical teachers are such illustrious men as Agassiz, O. W. Holmes, Bigelow, Asa Gray, and Wyman; and, there being no other school, the fees are large, and repay them for all their time. The zoological museum directed by the great naturalist is most splendid; and in the department of fishes, exceeds any in the world. Professor Holmes is as good an anatomist as he is poet and essayist, and I can award no higher praise. Many of his poems relate to his profession: for instance, the inimitable *Rip Van Winkle, M.D.*, read at the last opening meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The schools in the States are far too numerous: thus, in Louisville, a city not one-third of the size of Dublin, there are three—one rather oddly placed; namely, in the meat-market building. Their multiplicity has led to a downward competition; the fees are but £7 a year, and the whole sum for medical education and graduation does not reach £20. The fees in the Cincinnati College are lower still: it had last year forty-five graduates, whose fees amounted to about £400, giving each of the eleven professors £36 yearly for his remuneration. From even the most strict schools great numbers of graduates proceed. Thus in Bellevue, New York, and Jefferson College, Philadelphia, over two hundred are annually capped. In the latter, the surgical teachers are such far-famed men as Gross and Pancoast.

The cheapness and too great facility of the smaller schools allow untrained persons to graduate; and if they find the trade dull, they turn to others. The clown of the circus, while I was at Washington, was a medical doctor. I wish I could believe that professional outcasts always follow callings as innocent. We suffer from the same multiplicity of schools; and as long as there are six in Dublin to eleven in London, a city ten times larger, it is evident the classes cannot repay a scientific lecturer. As soon, therefore, as he begins to acquire practice, his services are lost to science. Edinburgh, with a class of 500, has but two medical schools. It is most desirable that the proprietary schools should unite with that of the College of Surgeons; and, indeed, they are already under similar control and somewhat identified in interests. It is regarded as certain

that Parliament will determine the question of University education in Ireland this session; and lest any exclusive privileges should be designed for University medical schools, it behoves the others to demand equal recognition of their lectures—a claim which could not be resisted if they were previously strengthened by union. The amalgamation of our licensing bodies is still more desirable—especially that of our College of Physicians and College of Surgeons. It may be said that, on the eve of legislation, it may be useless to do this; but surely it will be well that any Parliamentary inquiry should find them amicably united. The division of income cannot be any obstruction, for the receipts of each for the past seven years should form a reasonable basis for apportionment of fees.

In America, pupilage for three years with a practitioner is necessary for graduation; and, as free patients are seen in the private surgery, pupils may learn a good deal. Our dispensaries at hospitals render this system unnecessary. The States are a high-pressure place, as every one knows; and the most striking medical instance of it is, that there is a summer session for similar work to that of winter, and in Bellevue Hospital, New York, even a third or autumnal session. Small specialities are encouraged by the establishment in the Universities of such Chairs as those of "Professor of Diseases of the Chest," "Professor of Genito-urinary System," "Lecturer on Diseases of the Kidneys," and the like.

The clinical mode of examination is universal in America; and, I rejoice to say, it will be in practice at the licence-examination of our College of Surgeons in January. I may mention that this was the first body to ordain clinical examination, which was required for Fellowship in 1845. In most American hospitals, a pupil will not get his certificate unless he has acted as dresser under the house-surgeon, who is responsible for his instruction.

The hospitals in the great cities are usually vast, and two in number. The City Hospital, Boston, exceeds in architectural beauty even St. Thomas's and the Leeds Infirmary, and is furnished with every modern hygienic improvement. Dr. M. F. Gavin, a licentiate of our College, and once a pupil here, is surgeon to this hospital. To his kindness I am most deeply indebted.

The Bellevue Hospital, New York, is remarkable for a splendid system of telegraphy and ambulance throughout the city, by which the injured are quickly discovered and conveyed to the wards; also for the holding of coroner's inquests within it, by which grand opportunities for studying forensic medicine are afforded. Its staff includes such men as Frank Hamilton, Flint, Doremus, and Hammond. The class last year numbered four hundred and thirty-six.

The Infirmary on Ward's Island, in connection with the Castle Garden Emigration Commission, is also a noble structure, and in it poor Irish and German emigrants meet with truly paternal care.

After all, in Dublin, with ten smaller hospitals, the sick poor are better inconvenienced, and the buildings are certainly more wholesome. As several of our hospitals lie close together, an amalgamation of them, as regards clinical instruction, might be readily effected, if the number of cases in one be judged too small for the purpose.

The senior offices in the American hospitals are conferred by the city authorities; but the recommendation of the Medical Board, who select three candidates, is always respected. The junior offices are all won by competition, and those who have held them are usually promoted to the senior and permanent offices.

The Mercy Hospital at Chicago will accommodate one thousand patients after this year, most of whom will pay about twenty-five shillings weekly for support and treatment. This system, very common in America, is most unfair to the profession. In the same wonderful city, as in most of those on the borders of the Lakes, there are government hospitals for the care of sailors, who suffer much from typho-malarial fever, or, as it might be more correctly called, entero-malarial; for intestinal lesions are combined with intermittent symptoms. In the West, most diseases are influenced by the ague-poison; hence quinine is an universal remedy. The main difference, as it seemed to me, between typho-malarial and our enteric fever, was the extreme tediousness of convalescence in the former. It was the most formidable of the war-diseases, seventy thousand cases having been recorded, with one-eleventh of them fatal. In the Bellevue Hospital, New York, I saw several cases of relapsing fever—the epidemic which has been so rife in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. The physicians did not seem to regard it as catching, for the rules of the hospital exclude contagious cases. The patients were nearly all from the filthy, and, as I acknowledge with regret, the distinctively Irish, part of the city, where overcrowding in vile tenement-houses, personal squalor, and poor food, had fomented the contagion. With the exception of these houses and a few lanes in Boston, I saw no places in the States which did not bear evidence of strict sanitary surveillance. Nearly every town and every city has a

grand water-supply, sewerage, and an excellent system of inspection, including speedy prosecution of those who spread catching diseases, directed by a medical officer. The great fault in his office, like most other positions in the country, is, that he is elected by popular vote, and for a very short tenure.

The Sanitary Reports of New York are most splendid: for instance, this one, containing thirty beautiful coloured plates, illustrating the Texas cattle-disease.

It may not be out of place to mention that, with a view of guarding against the spread of relapsing fever, if it should be imported from Liverpool, our Public Health Committee are about to offer to the poor free baths and washhouses. The distribution of food, the other great preventive, is not within their province; but I feel certain that the charitable will thus aid our poor room-keepers when the present pressing need for it is made known.

It having been rumoured that, in Kentucky and some other Western States, suddenly fatal symptoms had seized infants, owing to the use of the milk of diseased cows, or cows which had fed on some poisonous plant, I made extensive inquiries, but obtained no reliable facts. Cholera infantum, a most fatal form of diarrhoea, was very prevalent; and the adulterated milk given to bottle-fed children was a highly probable cause.

As regards surgical practice, I saw nothing strikingly different from that of Dublin or London. Americans are close readers of works and periodicals in French and German, as well as in English, which, with doubtful honesty, they republish. They adopt, therefore, every well-attested improvement. In treating hip-disease in the advanced stage, Sayre's splint—a brass rod, with perineal and knee bands for extension—is invariably employed; and, as exercise is then possible, the patient's health more rarely fails than with us. This great surgeon's name reminds me of an extraordinary action for malpraxis to which he was subjected. He was accused of opening the hip-joint while puncturing an abscess in a child. The medical witness who made this assertion had to admit that his sole professional training had been the employment of posting bills in a druggist's book for two years, and that he could not name one ligament of the hip, a question which, he said, related to "minute anatomy". The Judge of the Supreme Court, after advising with a surgical jury, condemned the plaintiff to pay Dr. Sayre's costs and 5 per cent. on the £5,000 damages claimed; and this decision gives us a good hint as to the way in which the promoters of speculative actions should be treated.

For the reduction of hip-luxations, manipulation, of which flexion is the essential part, is most successful with American surgeons. The ilio-femoral, or Y ligament, as Professor Bigelow calls it, from its bifurcated form, is the main part to be relaxed; and flexion does so in each of the four common forms. I found that fractures of the lower limb were usually kept extended with weights and pulleys, or sometimes with straps of plaster only.

The Woman's Hospital and Medical College at Philadelphia, now in its twenty-first session, is the largest of such institutions in the States. In the wards I found about twenty cases, including six of labour, a vesico-vaginal fistula, a Colles's fracture, consumption, and dyspepsia; and, as far as I could judge, they were being skilfully treated. A numerous attended dispensary for female and infantile cases is attached. The lecture-room and dissecting-room were well arranged, and in the latter I was shown some capital anatomical preparations made by the demonstrator, a most intelligent lady, who brought me round. She admitted that their institution was unpopular in the neighbourhood, and that mischievous boys often stoned their windows. About six bodies, male and female, suffice for the students, who average yearly forty-five. There are eight professors, four male and four female; while in the New York Female College, of nine professors, only two are ladies, and they teach obstetrics only. The whole cost of education is £50, a sum exceeding that of any of the male medical colleges. Woman performs no nobler office than that of nursing and comforting the sick, as all will eagerly aver who have witnessed the work within these walls of the holy Sisters of Charity; and while such duties might advantageously be extended to the care of natural childbirth, I feel sure that against dissection and the general practice of surgery, the refinement and modesty of Irish ladies will always revolt.

Lunatic asylums are well managed, and show high averages of recovery, that at Halifax having had last year 42 per cent. of cures on the admissions. I was surprised to learn that no Indian has ever been an inmate, while Negroes show a proportion like that of the whites. In one asylum, I was told of the following interesting case. A young girl, a teacher in a school, was asked by a zealous pupil to teach her algebra. Ashamed to admit her ignorance, she laboured during every spare moment to learn this branch of mathematics; but, after a few weeks, became insane. Her case throughout the five years she re-

mained was one of most determined suicidal tendency. Despite every care, she contrived to hang herself with bedclothes from her window one night. When discovered, she was insensible, and remained so for six days, during which she was nearly perishing from congestion of the lungs. When the insensibility disappeared, it was found that she was sane. She soon returned to her duties, and is now one of the most respected ladies in her town.

I was astonished to find that, in a country generally so well educated, quackery was rampant and successful. However, the only physiological knowledge which was diffused was that relating to the sexual passions, by filthy advertisers and one pseudo-medical journal, the organ, forsooth, of an university. I have elsewhere contended that the spread of the knowledge of the functions of the human body was the efficient remedy against quackery. Still, the weak-minded and ignorant should be shielded from the rapacity of the quack. I am well aware that there is great difficulty in suppressing quackery without incurring the risk of greater evils. Governments are not scientific authorities; and it is conceivable that some such discovery as vaccination might be branded as quackery, as it was in its earlier days. Still it cannot be impossible to put down, by public prosecution or exposure, such flagrant impostures as those I witnessed in America. Two quacks infest Louisville, stay at the best hotel, and drive about in a splendid equipage. When they gather a crowd, one puffs the virtues of his nostrum, and the other sells it to the dupes. While I was there, a respectable citizen drank some of it, and died ten minutes afterwards. No jury sat on his body, for life out west is not so highly rated as with us, and the only verdict among the reflecting classes was, "What a fool he was to take it." In St. John, New Brunswick, I encountered a more complete Jack Pudding. From the top of his magnificent carriage, he shouted for all who were ill to come and let themselves be cured. Some fellows in his pay asserted that they suffered from toothache, earache, deafness, and sick stomach; and when they had been well lathered by him with his embrocation, they cried out that they were as well as ever. Scores of bottles of the stuff went off at a dollar each. At night, the populace were still more attracted by the vehicle being lighted up and furnished with a grand band of negro melodists. The most extraordinary reward for quackery I have lately heard of was a pension of £50 yearly awarded last year to a bone-setter by the local legislature of Nova Scotia. The credulity in nostrums must be regarded as a proof that civilisation is not as advanced as among the better classes in the old countries, and it is now about the level of what it was in the seventeenth century in England. Then such absurdities as Sir Kenelm Digby's sympathetic powder were in vogue. There is this difference, however, that such English quacks were fools—all the Yankee ones are knaves. In 1739, the English Parliament passed an Act granting Mrs. Stephens £5,000 for the secret of her lithontriptic, a mess then found to be made of egg-shells, snail-shells, and some herbs burned together. To her certificate are appended the names of several cabinet ministers, and of Cheselden, Hawkins, and Sharpe, the greatest surgeons of the century.

Quacks are largely supported by those wretched persons whose diseases have been condemned as incurable. The quacks who are most detestable are those who profess to prevent and cure sexual diseases. Their indecent advertisements have caused the minds of the young to dwell on lascivious subjects, encouraged masturbation, and made hypochondriasis common. They have had much to do with the origin and spread of such scarcely conceivable mixtures of lust and lunacy as Mormonism and Free Love. Many advertisements offer aid for fœticide, but I should be sorry to believe they come from any who have even taken the first step in the healing art.

I blush to say that the newspapers of this city are polluted by such announcements from a person whose name is still retained on the Medical Register. But quacks always fail here, owing to the good sense and morality of our people. In America, panacea puffs meet you everywhere; the hotel books and directories are interleaved with them; they present you with fans covered with them, and they desecrate the grandest scenes. At Harper's Ferry—one of the most magnificent spots in the world—the towering rocks, the vast trees, the fortresses ruined in the war, are all bedaubed with advertisements in letters a yard long.

Empirics strive to make regular medical study unpopular, and for this purpose the *New York Star* was induced to publish, on Aug. 28, absurd pictures of the bodies of beautiful young girls tied up by the hair for dissection—the anatomists around being depicted much after the manner of ravenous wolves.

The prevalence of quackery and the generally low state of the profession depend greatly on the general combination of drug-selling with the curative art; and their total separation, while greatly elevating medicine, would stimulate the scientific study of pharmacy—a remark equally applicable to these countries. In the drug-stores,

soda-water and various spirits are largely sold, especially in the State of Maine.

While the profession is lowered in public estimation by the evils on which I have dwelt, its really learned members, such as the great Professor Gross, to select one out of the hundreds there are, hold the very highest social rank.

I was so pleased with my tour, that I would urge my professional brethren to select America instead of the Continent for a six weeks' vacation. The glorious and stupendous scenery, the liberality of most of her institutions, and the hospitality of her educated classes, make the United States a truly enjoyable place of travel for the English-speaking tourist. Still more warmly I would advise the newly fledged surgeon to make the Transatlantic trip. It is healthful, notwithstanding the sea-sickness. I may mention my belief that the horizontal posture is the only cure for this condition, as the symptoms depend on the shaking of the medulla oblongata. A ship-surgeon has much occasion for the exercise of his benevolence and administrative ability among the emigrants, and occasionally among the cabin-passengers, and all branches of his professional knowledge may be called into requisition. To a lover of Nature, the towering billows, the spouting and plunging whales, the porpoises running races with the ship, the nautilus, suggester of the sail, and the phosphorescence of the waves by night, are objects of intense interest. During the week's stay in port, he can see something of America's finest scenery and enlightened institutions.

There is one other topic on which I must touch; namely, the past and present prospects of medical students. It is this day twenty years since I began the study of medicine; and the changes have been so great that I cannot refrain from some allusion to them. Up to that period, success was much more slow of attainment, and for a young man to have gained a high position most unusual; indeed, the instance of Carmichael was the only one to adduce. That illustrious man was chosen President of the Royal College of Surgeons at the age of thirty-four. Then, it was necessary to court the favour of the great to obtain public employment; now, the grand system of competitive examination has placed a competency within the reach of every student who is manly and self-reliant. The navy, the home and Indian armies, have thus become much more ably officered; and, as clerkships in the Poor-law Service are now to be won by competition, I feel sure the medical offices in that department will be soon made public prizes. The medical charity system of Ireland would then surpass that of England still more distinctly than it does at present. And lastly, the junior offices in our great hospitals must open to those who strive to win them by their own exertions. To the vast encouragement of study which such competition has given, I attribute the great improvement in the habits and character of our students. Twenty years ago, it being impossible for any one without much interest to get employment, students degenerated into "chronics," and became idle and dissipated. At the present day, I maintain that the student of medicine is characterised by professional earnestness, and by that benevolence which even the first steps in a noble calling cannot fail to inspire. Like other youths, he shows a fondness for the various amusements which this dear old city of ours provides; and, if they be not hurtful to his body, mind or morals, I for one hope they never shall be curtailed.

MANSLAUGHTER BY A MIDWIFE.—The Leeds Borough Coroner has held an inquest on the body of a young woman named Jane Vickers, who was attended by a midwife in her confinement. Hæmorrhage set in, and the neighbours advised the latter to send for a medical man; she did not do this, and death ensued. Mr. Goldie, surgeon, stated in evidence that he was called to see the deceased, but that she was dead when he arrived. He made a *post mortem* examination, which satisfied him that the midwife had displayed gross negligence and ignorance in the management of the case. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the midwife.

DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, ETC.—"T. N. R." has presented £1,000 to the National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.—The Hon. Augusta Irby bequeathed £500 to the Northampton General Infirmary.—Baroness Wenman has bequeathed £500 to the Oxford Infirmary.—Mr. James Reid, of Calderbank, has bequeathed £500 to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and £200 to the Convalescent Home.—"P." has made his (or her) thirty-first contribution to the funds of the Cancer Hospital, Brompton, making a total of £335.—Miss Elizabeth Baker, of Alfred Street, Bedford Square, has bequeathed £300 to the Royal Free Hospital, and £300 to the London Fever Hospital.—The Sheffield Public Hospital and Dispensary has received £200 under the will of J. Wilson Hawksworth, Esq.—The Rev. Carr J. Glynn has given £50 to the Dorset County Hospital.