

~~1028/71/16~~

March 31<sup>st</sup> 1875  
Securities Inst. Nov. 1

From CANADA MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL. 1874-5. Vol. 3. p. 133.

CUST 17/71.16

from ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Valedictory address to the Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, McGill University,  
Delivered on behalf of the Medical Faculty at the Annual Convocation held  
in the William Molson Hall of the University on Wednesday 31st March, 1875.  
By William Osler, M.D., L.R.C.P.L., Lecturer on Institutes of Medicine.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.- The pleasant duty devolves upon me of offer-  
ing you, on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine, congratulations on your present success,  
and good wishes for the future.

*Remember that training not complete - Students always - a  
progressive science unlike law & theology*

"You have of course entered the Profession of Medicine with a view of obtaining a live-  
lihood; but in dealing with your patients let this always be a secondary consideration.  
It has been well said, "No one should approach the temple of science with the soul of  
a money-changer." Let the spirit of our Medical moralist, Sir Thomas Browne, whose  
Religio Medici I would commend to your perusal, actuate you. He says "Let me be sick  
myself, if sometimes the malady of my patient be not a disease unto me; I desire rather  
to cure his infirmities than my own necessities; where I do him no good methinks it is  
scarce honest gain, though, I confess, 'tis but the worthy salary of our well intended  
endeavours." Upon your relations to fellow-practitioners, allow me to offer you a  
few words of counsel. \*\*\*

It is a fact well known to you all that the great opprobrium of our Profession, especially in the small towns, is the constant rivalry and distrust of one another displayed by its members. That men whose high calling ought to bind them closely together and whose interests are so much in common, should thus disagree, is a matter deeply to be regretted; and, I would urge upon you, during your, let me hope, prosperous career, to do all that may lie in your power to remove this scandal from our midst. A little watchfulness when commencing practice may prevent it entirely in your own circle, and you may thus have your brother practitioners as friends not enemies. The evil I regret to say, is generally traceable to the patients. You will not be engaged in practice many weeks before one seeks you who has been under the care of some other medical man. He or she gives you a statement of the case, blames the former attendant, and expects you to sympathize and add your measure of censure. If you do, it gets talked of, and sooner or later reaching the ears of your rival practitioner forms the nucleus of a serious quarrel. Make it a rule always to discourage the tales of a patient about another medical man; and even when you think he has made a mistake, be slow to judge. Often too you may feel aggrieved, and think yourself wronged or slighted; instead of giving vent to your feelings, on such occasions, restrain them, and remember the injunction "If thy brother trespass against thee; go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."

*Then he looks up the surgeon's question*