

dicted that medicine might come in its turn, but that that turn could not come for many years. He based his hasty calculations on the great expense attendant on making even a modest and small commencement in so varied a study as that of medicine. No doubt his dubious anticipations were reasonable, but Sir Thomas Elder has upset them all, and proved that the best laid schemes of University dignities may be blown to the winds. The whole community will be grateful to Sir Thomas Elder for his good example and his generous wishes. At the same time there may be some who will deem the project to establish a medical school as premature. Fears may be expressed that this colony is too small to enable a young man to gain the requisite hospital practice for his proper qualification as a medical graduate. It may be urged that it will be an injury to a noble profession if it is swamped by a number of colonial doctors, and that there is no lack of able practitioners at present. Further, that in spite of the expense and difficulty that are attached to the acquisition of a medical degree, which can only be obtained by undergoing a protracted course of study in Melbourne or in Britain, the supply of doctors is quite equal to the demand, and that there are no suitable buildings attached to the University in which such a peculiar study can be carried on. This last objection we admit, but it is one which may be got over by the assistance of the Government, or by private munificence. The other

objections have not so much weight when we remember how frequently advertisements appear in our columns from residents in various districts urging medical men to settle among them, and that this colony is doubling its population every quarter of a century, we cannot deem the ranks of the doctor's to be overstocked, or venture to expect that the supply will continue to be equal to the demand. In medicine, as in law and theology, the colony must learn to look to its own young men to fill up the rank and file of the profession. The higher positions of scientific fame and success will nearly always fall to the lot of those who can add to their colonial experience the immense advantages attendant upon a course of study in the great schools of Europe. This is the case in Melbourne, where a medical faculty has been in existence for many years, and it will be the case here.

Those who are afraid of making a medical education too cheap need not entertain groundless fears. No medical degree can be given, if it is to be worth anything, in as short a time as a degree in arts or laws. In Melbourne the course for the M.B. degree is five years, and the candidate must pass five examinations—that is, he must spend two more years in

study than his fellow-student who is working for the B.A., B.Sc., or L.L.B. degrees. This of itself is a sufficient handicap to prevent a rush of colonial youths into the medical profession, which, after all that is said about doctor's bills, is not particularly well paid. Two years more are required for the higher degree of M.D., so that the entire course will extend over seven years. Even then the colonial graduate will covet the additional skill and experience that are attached to European experience, and will be well aware that unless he goes for a time to England he cannot compete in reputation with those who wear a London degree. It may be objected that £10,000 is not enough wherewith to endow a medical school. It will only produce some £600 per annum, which, with the Government subsidy, will amount to £1,100 yearly. There are, however, rumors of other gifts to follow. But even if those be long in coming we venture to suggest that there is no need to start with a professor whose whole time would be given to tuition; lectureships will suffice for several years. The Melbourne University did its work for many years by appointing lecturers from among the practising physicians and surgeons of Victoria, and it was not till the School of Medicine had been in existence for some time that a professor was engaged to take charge of anatomy, physiology, and pathology. The sum of £1,000 a year will suffice for four or five lectureships, and as soon as funds are forthcoming the faculty will be able to attain its full strength.

It is to be hoped that not only the public and the council of the University will endorse by their approval the generous gift of Sir Thomas Elder, but that the profession will give all possible aid in making the establishment of this medical school a success. From the members of that profession must come the advice that will be needed to enable the council to proceed wisely and yet cautiously. From them, too, must proceed the teaching skill that will be required, and to them must the council look for its examiners. As the judges and lawyers co-operated heartily in establishing the law school, feeling that no small honor was put upon the legal profession by its public recognition in the curriculum of the University, so it may be hoped will the medical scientists of the colony look upon the proposal to establish a school of medicine as a grand opportunity for cultivating in our midst that most noble of all professions, the time-honored art of healing. Nothing will frighten charlatans and quacks from playing their dangerous experiments upon the bodies of credulous patients like the existence of a good medical school in our midst. And if, as will doubtless be the case, the faculty and the council do their best to maintain a high standard for medical degrees from the very first, there will be no fear of the public or the University being ashamed of its future doctors or bachelors of medicine.

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