

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1903.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY IN MEDICAL EDUCATION.*

AN experienced railway engineer once told me that when about to establish a grade for a line or railway across a mountain chain he no longer started at the base of the mountain and endeavored to seek a practical ravine or water course through which the line might be led upward to the top of the divide and thence down to the plain below on the farther side of the mountain. He had found from experience that to pursue this course involved him in bad grades and increased difficulties of construction. This method of survey, which lacked a comprehensiveness of plan and breadth of detail so essential to secure the best route, has been abandoned after long trial and by many engineers. His present method was to examine the mountain range first to discover the most feasible passage at the higher level, and when he had once found it he was able to determine with comparative ease the grades required to connect it with the base of the mountain, and could then construct the most practicable and least expensive route.

It is my purpose to-day to urge that medical education be similarly approached from the vantage point of the university with its lofty standards, rather than from a lower point of view, with the hope that

* Annual address to the graduating class in the Yale Medical School, June 23, 1903.