

EDITORIAL

L'ENVOI.

"God sends His teachers unto every age,
To every clime, and every race of men:
With revelation fitted to their growth,
And shape of mind."

—Lowell.

THE first year of the life-history of MEDICAL SCIENCE has passed, and with this number Volume the Second is begun. To us the beginning seems but of yesterday; and yet the journal has even now its own little history, and has found a niche unoccupied, wherein to place the chaste symbol of that goddess whose worship it has been our duty and pleasure to celebrate. The field of medical journalism is littered with quarterlies, monthlies, weeklies, reviews, digests, and reports of societies, and yet we do not think ourselves astray when we assert that in the United States and Canada there is a notable lack of medical magazines which strive to indicate the broader outlines and inculcate the deeper truths of a science, noble to the degree that its aims are high. It is not wholly strange that the physician, as we know him, should mainly see the daily task and unremitting toil which are forced upon him in practice; and yet we are more firmly convinced than ever that the solution of medical problems—if ever reached—must be upon the broader lines of which MEDICAL SCIENCE has endeavored to be an exponent. Said Prof. Leyden, of Berlin, recently before the German Congress of Physicians at Wiesbaden, "We all, as physicians, know how much the Medicine of to-day has to thank natural science; we know that she alone has rescued Medicine from the pool of wilful and unreasonable speculation and built it anew on a basis of well-grounded facts. The physician must be a naturalist. He must learn to prove, observe, and sift the causes of disease with a knowledge of the natural sciences." Said Gihon, in that truly brilliant and remarkable address as President of the Section on Climatology and Demography, at Washington last year, "It is a matter of marvel when we look into the medical literature of the day and listen to the proceedings of medical bodies, that we find everywhere the dominating influence of a new philosophy in Medicine. Time-honored tenets have been renounced and venerated authorities dethroned without vio-

lence, without protest, without surprise, insensibly as the darkness fades before the dawn." If "to the outside world Medicine is yet only the mercenary art of healing, at so much apiece, the maimed and the halt and the blind of the human race," it can never again be that, to the searcher after Nature's truths, Medicine shall ever be exemplified by Hecate's bewitched cauldron or Hahnemannian absurdities. Applied to Medicine, we have a profound truth in the words from "The Finding of the Lyre,"—

"O, empty world that round us lies,
Dead shell, of thought and soul forsaken,
Brought we but eyes like Mercury's,
In thee what songs should waken!"

During the year which has gone, with whatever of worth our readers have found in MEDICAL SCIENCE, it has been, perhaps *unnecessarily*, remarked by our confrères that the journal is the special exponent of Preventive Medicine, and that it cannot fairly claim that support from the general profession which those specially devoted to the interests of our two medical schools have a right to expect. We deem this our highest honor, our greatest pleasure

"O et presidium et dulce decus meum."

Said Prof. Flint in his posthumous address on "The Medicine of the Future:"—"The progress of Medicine induces slowly, but surely, changes in popular ideas. The physician of the future will, perhaps, not be better appreciated; but there will be a truer estimate of medical knowledge and of the medical profession. . . . The medical profession will have reached a high ideal position when the physician, guided by the knowledge of diagnosis, the natural history of disease and existing resources may, with neither self-distrust or the distrust of others, heal an acute disease by hygienic measures without potent medications." Said Prof. Gross, the greatest of all American surgeons, but shortly before his death, "The great question of the day is not this operation or that, not ovariectomy, lithotomy, or a hip-joint amputation, which have reflected so much glory upon American medicine, but *preventive medicine*: the hygiene of our persons, our dwellings, our streets, in a word, our surroundings, whatever or wherever they may be,