

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,  
TORONTO.

BY H. B. ANDERSON, M.D.

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Toronto.

IN the first place, permit me to express my deep appreciation of the honor of having been elected president of the Academy of Medicine for the current year. When one reflects on the manifold duties and responsibilities involved, he may well be pardoned some misgivings as to the wisdom of your selection. If, however, an abiding faith in the mission of the Academy and of its possibilities of usefulness to the profession of Toronto, and a willingness to do one's best to promote its welfare, will compensate for other deficiencies, I may hope to justify a claim to these qualifications. Until two months ago everything gave promise that this year should be marked by a continuance of the phenomenal progress which has attended the Academy in increasing degree each succeeding year since its organization in 1907. The increase in membership, now about 400, the growing attendance at meetings, the ready response from leaders of the profession, abroad as well as at home, to contribute to our programmes, the steady growth of the library, and not least, the general recognition that we now have a strong and representative organization, which reflects the opinion and mobilizes the influence of the profession, are all gratifying evidences of our progress. The rapid growth of the Academy, however, has produced problems pressing for solution. Already our accommodation for both library and meeting purposes is greatly overtaxed. The council had considered the matter and had formulated a plan to submit to the Academy to make provision for these urgent needs.

Through the munificence of Mrs. Ross the means were provided for the erection of a beautiful auditorium as a memorial to our revered colleague and first president, the late J. F. W. Ross. This splendid contribution, with others in sight, if supplemented by reasonable assistance from our own members, brought within view the realization of a building in Queen's Park worthy of our profession and city.

The sudden breaking of the cloud which has so long threatened our Empire and the peace of the world, however, has dislocated the affairs of our country and turned the resources and energies of our people from peaceful pursuits to a struggle against a military despotism, for not alone our national existence, but for the cause of freedom and the future of civilization.