

feeling and generosity. The undertaking, on my part, was fraught with much that would naturally disturb one's ordinary peace of mind ; the infancy, childhood and puberty of this association (this is but its 18th birthday) have been intimately linked with a brilliant list of eminent men who, as chief officers, have so largely contributed to its growth and effectiveness—men who have created ideals the most impressive in character, and in whose onward footprints it is not easy to tread without faltering. With a consciousness of the responsibility resting upon me and a somewhat imperfect estimate of my shortcomings, around the standard I have gathered various committees possessing all the qualifications necessary to constitute this, our annual meeting, a step forward in the march of Canadian medical science ; and I would take this opportunity of expressing my thanks publicly for the preparatory work which they have so gladly, assiduously and disinterestedly performed. It has been for them no sinecure ; abundant evidence of this will be found in the comprehensive programme now laid before you, the carrying out of which, I trust, will prove, in the highest sense, both entertaining and instructive.

On behalf of the association I extend to our guests from afar the right hand of cordiality and goodfellowship ; and, having again and again witnessed the proverbial hospitality of that branch of the profession resident in Toronto, I have full confidence that those members who have come from the many outlying districts of the province will feel perfectly at home ; indeed it will not be optional with them but rather a matter of sheer compulsion, if I know aright the instincts that prompt the gentlemen who constitute the committee of entertainment.

In order that such a meeting as this should fulfil its purpose it is imperative that each contribute his share in elucidating the various topics that may be presented. Even at the risk of verging on the sacrilegious, I would say :

“ Let not fitness make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream.”

Modesty should be the handmaid of true ability, not its tyrant ; prominence of location is not always a reliable criterion of intense personality or mental cultivation ; the city doctor, to be sure, derives benefit from frequent converse with his fellows ; but his solitary brother from the cross-roads has at least one advantage over him, in that his environment, perforce, evokes the cultivation of self-reliance and the faculty of keen observation. I hope that none will hesitate ; we are here for the rapid interchange of ideas that will stimulate afresh our enthusiasm and perseverance.