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EVOLUTION OF MEDICINE IN ONTARIO.*

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In assuming the duties of President of the Toronto Clinical Society for the coming year, I wish to express to you my deep appreciation of the honor. To be elected to the chief office in a society which represents so much of the medical life of a great city is something of which any man might be proud. Limited though it is in numbers, within the membership of this Society are found many of those whose eminence as clinicians has gained for the medical profession of Toronto the place it now holds in the confidence and esteem of the community, and whose ability as teachers and wisdom as counsellors has contributed largely to mould the medical thought and direct the policy of our profession during one of the most important periods in its history. While appreciating the honor, equally do I realize the responsibilities which the position involves, and how much one lacks the qualifications to properly discharge them. I shall continue, however, to rely on that personal kindness and friendship which has been one of the most valued assets of my professional life, and shall ask of you and my associates in office the same sympathetic and loyal support so freely accorded my predecessors in the chair. During my tenure of office I can assure you that my best efforts will be devoted to maintaining the high character which has distinguished the work of this Society since its organization, and which has made the meetings so valuable to us all.

It is not my intention to occupy much of your time this evening with any introductory remarks. Not that the present is an inopportune time, nor that a Clinical Society is an unsuitable place to discuss many matters of importance to the profession of our country—matters which the rapid evolution of events will force upon our consideration in the near future, and in the solution of which a society of the standing and influence of this must play a considerable part.

The epoch making nature of the events which have been taking place around us since the organization of the Clinical Society in 1893 must have occurred to all of us, not in the medical profession alone, but in every line of intellectual, industrial, commercial and political activity in our country. After long years of waiting and hope deferred, we are privi-

*Presidential Address, Toronto Clinical Society, Oct. 10th, 1906.