

## SPINA BIFIDA.\*

BY GEORGE A. BINGHAM, M.B.

### *Fellows of the Clinical Society:*

I have first to thank you for what I consider the exceedingly great honor you have done me in electing me your President. As a charter member of this Society I have from the first done what little I could for the furtherance of its interests, and during the present session I shall esteem it a privilege to do my best in the same direction. Though naturally it is with some timidity that I assume the responsibilities of this position, more especially in view of the uninterrupted line of distinguished gentlemen who have preceded me in office, yet feeling assured of the loyal support of the Fellows, and conscious of the fact that I have an enthusiastic committee to assist me, I am surely justified in the hope that the Society will in nowise retrograde during my incumbency of office. From its inception our Society has prospered, and in reviewing the causes that have contributed most largely to that success, I am reminded of the intensely practical nature of the reports presented, and of the discussions arising therefrom. Brevity and conciseness have also been marked features of our clinical reports. May I urge a continued fostering of these virtues? Indeed, they are necessities if we desire to profit from the great mass of clinical material now placed at our disposal through the medium of our Society.

Before discussing the subject proper of this brief paper, it is fitting that I should refer to the loss we have sustained in the death of the late James E. Graham. The profession at large throughout the Dominion have already testified to their appreciation of his worth, and we, as members of this Society, who have been brought more or less constantly into relationship with him must feel his loss even more keenly. A charter member of our Society, he was always ready to place his services at our disposal, and I happen to know from a personal statement how thoroughly he appreciated the helpfulness of the benefits to be derived from our clinical reports and discussions. In his decease we have lost from our roster an unostentatious but enthusiastic worker and a kindly gentleman. We shall miss his presence at our meetings, but the influence of such a life must be as enduring as the eternal hills.

With your permission, I shall deviate somewhat from the precedent established by my predecessors, and instead of a formal address shall present to you a summary of clinical reports from my case book in connection with the treatment of

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\* President's Address—Toronto Clinical Society.