

for the remainder of your days. Would that I to-day were gifted with the eloquence of a David or a Demosthenes, a Henry or a Howe, that, although from what is said you learn no new thing, my words might impress you with the sentiments and emotions of my heart as I look out upon this enterprise with all its potentialities and possibilities for improvement to us as men and medical practitioners—as well as to the community within the radius of its influence.

Gentlemen, as most of you know, we are assembled to-day as an organization, chiefly through the energy and endeavour of our two good friends, Dr. McDonald, of Lunenburg, and Dr. Macdonald, of Rose Bay. And the magnitude of our indebtedness as medical men, and of the indebtedness of the county or counties within the sphere of this Society's influence never will be estimated till the great day of all accounting. For, gentlemen, if this society be utilized, if we as members of the medical profession appropriate to ourselves all the good that is within our handgrasp as an organization, there may go out from this Society influences that shall entirely revolutionize existing baneful conditions, open the eyes of the people to the true relation between them and their physicians and bring about an era of mutual respect now non-existent.

Just here I would like to congratulate the society on having so many enthusiastic young men full of the progressive spirit of the age.

“If the wild filly Progress thou wouldst ride,  
Have young companions ever at thy side.”

But we want the counsel and experience of the oldest members of the profession as well. To continue the above quotation:

“But wouldst thou stride the staunch old mare Success,  
Go with thine elders though they please thee less.”

In fact it is to be hoped that every medical man in this county will consider this Society to be his particular enterprise and do everything in his power to make it as efficient as his energy, thoughtfulness, —yes, and even his sacrifice can make it, for it may be often at some immediate personal sacrifice we are able to attend these meetings. In the long run, however, rest assured that whatever small sacrifices we undergo to make our presence possible will be amply atoned for.

We, as medical men, need some rest, and rest is change, and from the hard routine of practice attendance upon these meetings will be a helpful change.