

The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

VOL. XXIX. TORONTO, AUGUST, 1904.

NO. 8.

Original Communications.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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GENTLEMEN,—There are pinnacles to which we reach, only to be hurled down from the dizzy height into the valley below to be hidden from the rude storms of the world, and where peace and quiet and easy-going hum-drum pervades the spot, while the green grass grows under the feet. This is the well-known valley of the "have beens." Hills have only two sides, one going up and the other going down, and when one has reached such honor as you have conferred upon me, he has climbed the upside and must begin the descent. One is elated with the honor, but grieved with a retrospect of all that led up to it; one is pleased with the evidence of the good-will of his fellows—and a better lot of fellows never lived in any profession—but subdued with that soul-shading feeling that youth is fleeting and age is approaching. Each man naturally looks forward to the day upon which he may occupy the presidential chair, but when the day comes he would give much to be able to postpone the honor for another ten years. And now it is time for the past presidents to move up and make room for me; but I do not intend to be placed upon the shelf, if health and strength remain. We all like to mingle with youth; but, unfortunately,