

## Original Communications.

*Introductory Address*, delivered at the meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, Nov. 2nd, 1877, by the President, Francis Wayland Campbell, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P.L., Professor of Physiology, Bishop's University.

GENTLEMEN,—At our last meeting I briefly thanked you for the honor which you conferred upon me in electing me to the office of President of this Society. I am deeply sensible of this mark of confidence from my professional brethren, and trust that when my term of office shall have expired I may be able to hand over its direction to my successor, feeling that your confidence was not misplaced. From the very inception of this Society I have taken a warm interest in its welfare, and by constant attendance at its meetings have endeavored to realize to the fullest extent all those benefits which I think can be derived from associations such as our own. And, gentlemen, these benefits are of such a character, at all events in my estimation and in that I am sure of many a now see around me, that I often wonder at the comparatively small attendance we have at many of our meetings. I do not like, the very first time I occupy the chair, to find fault, and yet I cannot help recording my opinion that some of our members, who, from the length of time they have been connected with the profession, must have accumulated a large experience, are very much to be blamed for non-attendance at our meetings, and giving us the benefit of that experience. Some of them we have rarely seen within these walls, others make angels' visits, few and far between. I do not accept as satisfactory to my mind the plea of constant occupation. My time is as fully occupied as that of any member of this Society, and yet I have been able fully to endorse the old adage "where there is a will there is a way." Very seldom, indeed, since our formation have I been absent from our meetings, and simply because I have always arranged my work on the day of meeting with a view of being present. What I have done other members have done, and is in the power of every member of this Society to do. I do not desire to say anything unkind in this connection, but I am firmly of opinion that we have not a few members who do not

either do their duty to this Society, or to the profession. Montreal is the centre of medical education in this great Dominion; it should be the centre of medical literature; its medical society should be the medical society of the Dominion, where medical men visiting our city would anxiously go to meet men, and hear them, whose names have for long years been familiar to them. Some of these men we see tri-annually, some never deign to honor our meetings with their presence, while some seem actually to have been all, but completely extinguished after having occupied the Presidential chair, as if the office which I have the honor to hold was the step from which politely to say "Adieu," I am sure that the course which is followed by some of the older members of the profession in this city towards this Society is not what the members have a right to expect from them. Certain honors carry with them certain responsibilities, and the room of this Society is the proper place to acquit themselves of their stewardship, for stewardship it in my opinion is. I do not believe that those who for years have occupied positions capable of affording large experience have any moral right to sit quietly before the fire with their slippers on on the Friday evening of our meeting. The members have the moral right to expect them to be with us, and out of their abundant storehouse refresh us with words of experience and wisdom. I trust I have not said too much on this head. For years I have felt very strongly upon this point, but within a short period it was somewhat unpleasantly brought to my mind by a visitor saying to me, after our meeting was over: "Why don't more of your big guns come to your meetings?" It happened to be at a time when the roads were bad, and I replied, "it was impossible to bring 'big guns' over such bad streets." But the remark I felt a réproof, although in no wise responsible, and the fact, I felt, was not at all a creditable one. I need hardly say, however, that we are not quite deserted, and that we have a few of the elder lights nightly with us, and how much they do to make our meetings agreeable and profitable is known to us all. The regularity of their attendance is a bright example for others to follow. I have spoken about the benefits to be derived by a regular attendance at our meetings. What are those