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ADDRESS ON SURGERY.*

BY DR. JONES, VANCOUVER.

Mr. President and Gentlemen :

My first duty is to express my appreciation of the honor which you have conferred upon me in selecting me to deliver the Address on Surgery.

Having undertaken to give this address, I must ask you to forgive me for failing to bring before you anything original. The inhabitants of Western Canada are not afflicted with surgical diseases differing from those in Eastern Canada. There may be this difference, that they are more impatient than the eastern people when they are afflicted with any disease. They always expect and desire to be treated by the most radical methods, however severe they may be. They have no time for palliative treatment. They become reckless, and wish to be relieved of their suffering rapidly. It may be that the life they lead in the mountains, full of hardships and dangers, tends to dispel all fear of death. It has often astonished me to see how little perturbed some of these people are when they are told that they are suffering from dangerous conditions, such as cancer of the rectum, tongue, or stomach, which necessitates a severe surgical operation. Without a murmur they consent to anything you suggest. They go to the hospital then and there, and face their operation as if it were an ordinary everyday occurrence.

As an example of the strange ideas that the public have on this subject, I might quote the following letter, which is a fact:

"Dear Sir,—I hear that Mr. Briggs, one of my lodgers, is to be operated upon on Wednesday, and I shall be much obliged

* Delivered at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association.