

DR. A. R. ROBINSON'S ADDRESS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

One of the redeeming features of the recent International Congress was the opening address made by the President of the Dermatological section. Some may think that it was a little out of taste to discuss, in such an open and vigorous manner, the failings shown by American Dermatologists, when so many distinguished visitors were present. The point, however, which we must consider, is whether Dr. Robinson had sufficient ground for the strictures made. His remarks will apply as well to the other specialties as to dermatology, and equally to all parts of the American Continent. We quite agree with him that a great injury is done to dermatology by connecting it with the study of genito-urinary diseases. There is no more connection between diseases of the bladder and those of cutaneous system, than there is between the latter and uterine affections, and we might as well combine gynecology with dermatology as to combine genito-urinary surgery with dermatology. We differ from Dr. Robinson in his views that there is no American School of Dermatology. We were always of the opinion that the American school combined the excellencies of the German, French, and English schools; and was, consequently, in some points, particularly that of therapeutics, superior to any other. Physicians of this continent have few prejudices, and have always been willing to adopt any remedial measure which may prove successful. That the American School of Dermatology is becoming more and more recognized throughout the world, is shown by the many references made to it in recent works on dermatology.

The practice of publishing articles which are simply compilations, and contain no original matter, was severely commented on. It is impossible that all papers read at medical societies can be original in character, and we can hardly help agreeing with Dr. Robinson in the view that the publications of such are sometimes made with the sole purpose of attracting the attention of the profession.

Dr. Robinson's address was not of that stereotyped character in which, when the reader commences, he can guess the nature of the con-

tents throughout without further perusal. It was original in conception, and well suited to our modern profession.

Although in some points we consider his criticisms too severe, still many wholesome truths were uttered, which we would all do well to ponder.

The following appears in the *Manitoba Lancet*, from the pen of one of Winnipeg's leading surgeons:—"Whatever may be the respective merits of the various hospitals in Canada as to facilities for clinical study, I think there can be no doubt Toronto is the best designed, arranged, and especially the best managed. I understand Dr. Cameron has had during the last year over a dozen laparotomies, and with more than the average success. . . In my humble opinion, Montreal possesses in Dr. Gardner an operator who is soon destined to give a material advance to abdominal surgery in Canada. He is a close follower of Tait, and his record so far leaves no doubt as to his future success. Dr. Trenholme, of Bishop's, divides with Dr. Gardner the gynecological honors; and in Montreal a very promising and likely competitor in the same race is J. Johnstone Alloway, of lacerated perineal fame."

We take the liberty of publishing a portion of a letter which was recently received from Montreal: . . . "From what I have heard of the meeting in Hamilton, there is much room for your suggestions as to a three days' session, and a section for gynecology and obstetrics. If men could be kept from long-winded speeches on papers they have not even heard—coming in after the paper is read or almost finished—it would be a good thing. It is a misnomer to call such 'discussions;' if we could reform these altogether it would be a great gain. Written papers must not be sacrificed to rambling talks, even by experienced men, else we shall lack well-prepared papers before long. I read with pleasure your criticisms of the Ontario Council, which with much good has mingled much blundering and stupidity. The progress of the University, in creating a medical faculty, is also a source of gratification to me. Yours sincerely, T. W. M."