

specific power shall rival that of quinine in malarial fever; the establishment of means of prevention no less sure than Jenner's precious gift of vaccination, the culpable neglect of which in a small area is even now showing a startled people horrors from which they are secured. Such is the lofty task imposed upon medical science. Real progress will be slow, errors numerous, excess in one direction often ill corrected by excess in another. But through the weary struggle, no doubt of ultimate success can be harbored so long as our methods are rational, our zeal unselfish, and our aim stamped with the fine old motto of Boerhaave—"Simplex Sigillum Veri." It is easy to see the widening range of medical influence in modern life and legislation. The advancing intelligence of the community recognizes more and more clearly in the medical profession, a body of men who, while posed of their full share of human weaknesses and class prejudices, still do labor faithfully for the most vital material interests of the race. As positive knowledge has increased, the assumption of mysterious powers become almost obsolete, and relations of far more real confidence and respect have been established between the medical profession and the community. And with this growth of public interest in general medical questions and of public confidence in the medical profession there must necessarily develop in the community a sense of responsibility and obligation towards those institutions which are honestly doing their share towards supplying it with well educated, practical physicians. Hitherto it has been the custom to regard medical colleges as in a peculiar sense the property and charge of medical men. In no other way can we understand the remarkable apathy of the public towards the abuses which might exist in their management and teaching, and towards their claims for endowment upon the generous patrons of learning. All must have been struck with the fact that, while tens of millions have been given during the past half century for the support of classical and scientific education, the general movement for the endowment of medical schools is of very recent origin. Within the last decade, however, a number of munificent gifts and bequests have been received, which show that at least the interest and approval of the community have been awakened by the earnest efforts made in various colleges to place medical education on its proper basis. The splendid gifts of Johns Hopkins, of Mrs John Rhae Barton, of Vanderbilt, of Carnegie, and of your own liberal benefactor, the Hon. Donald A. Smith (loud applause which lasted for several minutes,) the countless smaller ones which have erected such stately buildings as the medical halls and laboratories of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, and finally this noble structure of your own, attest this truth. The movement has but begun however; but since it has become apparent that no gifts promote more directly the best interests of the community than do these in support of the new and higher medical education, we may confidently expect to see it advance until all deserving medical schools are fully endowed. The amounts needed are large. There are several chairs in each faculty, the incumbents of which should receive an ample fixed salary, since their time must be devoted to scientific work, which brings no other remuneration. These professorships should all be fully endowed. The increased time required for a medical education, and the higher preliminary preparation exacted from those entering on it, involves so heavy a drain on the student's resources that some of the worthiest are reluctantly forced to seek their diplomas at schools of lower grade. This should be obviated by the establishment of an ample number of scholarships to be awarded on the results of competitive examination. Further it is essential that the great medical