

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

OUR PROFESSION AND THE LAITY IN PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE.*

By H. J. HAMILTON, M.D., Toronto.

I HAVE a deep sense of appreciation of the honor you have done me in electing me to the Presidency of the foremost Medical Association in Canada. I am conscious of the fact that the profession in Ontario has no greater honor to confer upon one of its members. The status of this Association, however, is such that the honor carries with it grave responsibilities which I have endeavored to discharge, as well as I am able to your satisfaction, and in the interests of the Association. If I have failed in this, I crave your indulgence.

On reviewing our history from the date of our organization in 1881, I entered upon the duties of office with a great deal of temerity. The list of past Presidents, the part they have had in the development of the Association since its inception, and the high point of excellence which it has attained, not only inspired me with awe, but stimulated and encouraged me to try to make this meeting an unqualified success. I cannot speak too highly of the support which has been rendered by the committees and the membership of the Association. It is with pardonable pride that I present to you the results of the combined labor of all, viz. : the best programme ever provided for our annual meeting. In passing I would thank the Secretary for his untiring efforts during the past year.

In addressing the audience before me, it is superfluous to refer to the benefits derived by the profession from our meetings. Those who attend know all about this. For those who never come to such gatherings, I would quote from *Hamilton Mabie* :—

“The development of one’s personality cannot be accomplished in isolation or solitude; the process involves close and enduring association with one’s fellows. If work were merely a matter of mechanical skill, each worker might have his cell and perform his task, as in a prison. But work involves the entire personality, and the personality finds its complete unfolding, not in detachment, but in association.”

Surely the education and development of a member of our profession should not cease when he graduates. Both constitute a life-long process, and true success in the individual will depend upon the consideration which he gives these essentials. I use the words education and development in their widest meaning. Professional education alone to the exclusion of that development which conduces to make a man broad, to give him a mature knowledge of human nature, and a soul full of sym-

*Presidential Address, Ontario Medical Association, June, 1909.