

the popular, and yet, on an occasion such as this, it is not desirable that we should deal with one or the other alone; should an olla-podrida be served up to you this evening as the result of an attempt to combine the two, this difficulty must be my excuse. I would prefer to speak to you chiefly of matters of which I have had personal knowledge, rather than to dive into books, or to deal with matters, which without disrespect, I might designate ancient history, and yet, our art is so intimately connected with past ages that to speak of it at all without reference to them would be an impossibility. And thus, since it happens that this will be the last inaugural lecture of the present century, it has occurred to me that possibly a review of some of the most striking changes which have taken place in medicine during its two last decades, the period during which I am best qualified to speak, may have some measure of interest for you.

First, then, I would notice the marvellous change and improvement in the style of nursing of to-day and that of twenty years ago, in Toronto at least. The soft-voiced, gentle-handed and willing nurse which you see in every hospital, is as different from her predecessors as day is from night. She is clean and neatly dressed, fresh and crisp in her appearance. She is well educated, alert by day or night, unsparing of self, gentle in handling a patient, thorough in carrying out her orders, loyal to the profession—in a word—a lady. Were it not for the assistance that the medical practitioner receives from the nurse, I think it safe to say, we would mourn the loss of many more of our patients than we now do, and that a large number of the intricate and serious operations, which are now so constantly performed, would be impossible. It is a pleasure to be able to testify in this place to the great help afforded and the amount of anxiety spared to the attending physician by the assistance of our willing coadjutors—the modern nurse.

During the last twenty years the enormous advances made by other sciences, or branches of our own art, have done much to equip us to diagnose and fight diseases in their various forms. In bacteriology alone, the labors of our own Grand Old Man Lister, with Pasteur, Koch and a host of other patient investigators, have enabled us to diagnose with certainty and to treat with some degree of success, that one time hopeless, and world-wide disease, tuberculosis. What did we see but a very few years ago? A wife nursed her husband, or a sister nursed a brother, the victims of pulmonary tuberculosis; after a few weeks or months the patient was carried off, to be followed frequently in a very short space of time, by the devoted nurse. Why, because it was not then known that consumption was an infective disease and no precautions were then taken to protect the lives of those who were in immediate contact with the