

know the almost insuperable difficulties its earlier promoters had to contend with, and how in the end, in spite of political, natural, and every other obstacle and hindrance, they successfully carried through the scheme and made possible the union of British Columbia and the great North West with the rest of Canada, and gave us as a result that splendid heritage, that united land which stretches from ocean to ocean, from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof—a land of which all her sons and daughters are so proud—our beloved Canada.

It is gratifying to our profession to know that it has been ably and honourably represented among those history makers in the persons of Drs. Helmcken and Tolmie who were the first medical men to settle in the colony, about the middle of the last century. Both took prominent part in the earlier events of the province. The former still remains among us; the latter has gone to his rest. Prior to their advent the native medicine man had it all his own way.

There is a significance, not without interest to my mind, in the fact that this Association, representing as it does to-day in its various members the highest medical knowledge of this enlightened period of the world's history, should meet here in this new country where Shamanism, or the cult of the savage "Medicine Man" so recently prevailed and does to some extent still prevail. The old and the new order of things are thus brought into suggestive contrast and juxtaposition, and we are led naturally to reflect upon the stages and steps we have passed since the days when all medical knowledge was comprised in the superstitious and rude practices of our savage prototypes, and in spite of our sometime failures and our lack of knowledge, still in certain directions the reflection on the whole is a pleasant and gratifying one both to ourselves and humanity at large. It certainly would not be the least interesting of subjects were I to attempt on this occasion a general survey of the march and progress of Medical Science from the days and practices of the primitive Medicine Man as we find him even in this province, down to the times and discoveries of Lister, Pasteur, Virchow and their followers.

But it is not my intention to undertake such a task to-night interesting and appropriate as it might under the circumstances be, although I cannot leave the subject without calling your attention briefly to a fact of which all of you may not be aware and which gives pertinence to my reference to the old time Shaman or Medicine Man. We are all familiar with hypnotism, but there are few of us perhaps aware that in the employment of hypnotism as a therapeutic agent we are returning to primitive methods, to the practice of our savage prototypes. Those who have made special study of the practices and customs of savage