

THE

MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXVII.

JANUARY, 1908.

No. 1.

THE SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT IN MEDICINE.

BY

A. B. MACALLUM, Ph.D., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Professor of Physiology, University of Toronto.

In accepting the invitation which you have extended to me to deliver the inaugural address I have been influenced by three considerations.

First of all, the compliment which such an invitation implies calls for the courtesy of acceptance. When one institution representing dignity and tradition of the best kind asks a member of another to occupy the rostrum for the inaugural occasion it is but fitting that he invited should respond in the spirit of the invitation.

Then there is the special nature of the occasion. Between all universities there should be a comity, a fellowship whose amenities should help to lighten the toil and weariness of the intellectual highroad. Between Toronto and McGill there has not been hitherto that freemasonry of spirit that I should like to see prevail. There has been aloofness where there should be comradeship. This does not mean that they should not be rivals. In all things of the mind there ought to be a noble rivalry, a struggle of emulation to excel, that no comradeship ought ever to extinguish or even make appear unnatural. A competition that aims at intellectual excellence should always exist between the two universities and it would be a sorry day for the higher life in this young nation if either went on its way careless of the ideals and intellectual ambitions of the other. The comradeship should make also for generous appraisalment of each other's efforts. There may, perhaps, be grounds for criticism of each other's achievements and methods, but there is at the same time no greater influence for making that criticism effective than a generous appreciation of the good things each has done. To this end the representative men from the two universities should mingle freely with one another.

Address delivered at the opening of the 76th Session of the Medical Faculty of McGill University.