

whose death, a short time ago, caused feelings of general regret among medical men throughout the whole Dominion. By his numerous valuable contributions to medical literature, Dr. Howard was known to many who never came in contact with the man, nor knew the affable manner of the great Montreal physician. Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Howard at the meeting of the Canada Medical Association in Ottawa last autumn will long recollect his geniality on that occasion. The interesting paper he then presented, on "Ophthalmoplegia Externa," was his last contribution to the programme of a Canadian Medical Association.

The subject of an address on an occasion like the present, has given me no small amount of anxiety, and in my perplexity I consulted our by-laws, where it is laid down, "That the President is required to deliver an address setting forth the condition of the profession in this Province, with such suggestions as he may deem it proper to make; and secondly, that he may give a dissertation on some subject kindred to the objects of this Association." With the exception of a few introductory observations I will confine my remarks to the present condition and needs of scientific medicine in Ontario.

The diffusion of knowledge is now so rapid and widespread, that no sooner does a new discovery appear in a medical journal than it is seized upon by the daily press and carried from one end of the world to the other. Indeed, the general public appear to have become so familiar with the work of bacteriologists, that I am informed on good authority that when a Northwest cowboy wishes to use a term of derision that will make his companion feel infinitely small, he calls him a "microbe." However, this public interest in "things medical" is not of recent date, but, on the contrary, it has existed ever since the art of healing emerged from the realms of mythology. Herodotus tells us that so great an interest was taken in disease by the Chaldeans and Babylonians that, when a person was taken ill, the sick one was carried into the market-place, and no one was allowed to pass by him without inquiring into the nature of his illness. The passage reads as follows: "Then those who passed by the sick person conferred with him about the disease, to discover whether they themselves had ever been afflicted with the same, or

had seen others so afflicted." Only those who had suffered were allowed to prescribe for the sick, and thus we see that in the early history of medicine the people were governed by the motto, "*Experientia docet.*" Ancient records teach us that the Grecians adopted a similar practice until the priests combined medicine with religion, and ascribed their powers to the god Æsculapius. The Grecian priests erected temples where they met, and not only treated the sick, but discoursed upon the medical topics of the day, and these temples of Æsculapius corresponded to our present hospitals and medical colleges. They subsequently established scholastic centres in various parts of the civilized world, and surrounded medical teaching with the same mystery and superstition that for so long a time enveloped the profession of theology. Gradually and mainly through the instrumentality of Hippocrates, medicine was placed upon a more rational and scientific basis, and he is justly considered one of the greatest benefactors of the human race.

I have made these few preliminary remarks in order to show that medicine, like law and religion, was instituted for the public benefit, and consequently the medical profession should have the public sympathy and support in everything that will aid it in carrying out its manifold duties. What, then, is the state of the medical profession in Ontario, to-day? and what are the needs of scientific medicine, in order that our professional duties may be more thoroughly performed?

I am of the opinion that at no time in the history of our country has the medical profession of Ontario been in a more favorable state, than at the present day, at no period of its existence has it been better organized, and consequently so well prepared for dealing with questions appertaining to our future work for the public welfare. We do not pretend to have accomplished work in the past that entitles the medical history of Canada to be brought into comparison with that of older countries, and indeed such could not be expected in a Dominion as young as ours. However, it is the proud boast of our profession that medicine knows neither country nor clime, which can alone claim to have produced all the illustrious medical men; hence we Canadians, in common with our fellow-workers in every land, share alike the glory that illumines names such as Hippocrates, Galen,