

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.*

SOME OBJECTS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

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GENTLEMEN,—When I recall to mind in the pregnant history of our profession such men as Hunter, the great anatomist; Ambrose Paré, the eminent French surgeon; Sir Charles Bell, with his discoveries relating to the nervous system; Jenner, the promulgator of vaccination, and a host of others, and recognize that, great and learned as were these medical pioneers, I am to-day to address a body of men any one of whom has stored within his mind more real, practical medical knowledge than any one of these pre-eminent men—yes, more than the whole of them combined, it is not at all surprising that I should feel and appreciate the great honor you have conferred upon me in placing me in this the highest office in the gift of your Society.

When I sat down to prepare this paper a number of themes presented themselves, amongst which the one chosen appealed to me as at least being opportune. You have all thought over this matter carefully, and therefore anything I may say must necessarily be in the nature of review. But our objects are worthy and will bear recapitulation, and sometimes, though there is no ground for suspicion that it will be so with us, organized bodies do lose sight of the real objects of their existence. This paper makes no attempt at being exhaustive,—in fact it will only deal with a very few of the many important objects for which we are banded together.

One great advantage on this occasion is mine, that of never having been preceded in this capacity; there have been no other presidential addresses delivered before you with which the present may be contrasted to its detriment, and by the time the next greets your ears this will have been forgotten. Not that I would willingly take up your time with something intended to be forgotten, but that you have chosen not wisely and brought this affliction or infliction upon yourselves. I only wish, gentlemen, that it were in my power to say something to you to-day that would remain with you to your benefit

* Delivered before the Lunenburg-Queens Medical Society, Jan. 1903.