

men will represent the profession in all matters of medical interest, whenever it will be needed, who will help to procure any claims we might consider ourselves entitled to, and which are so often and so easily put aside by political men who cannot be competent in medical matters. The association will also have the advantage of bringing us more closely together, allowing us to become better acquainted with one another, and strengthening the links of friendship already existing between some of us, and in the meantime having us benefit of each other's knowledge.

It has been agreed, as you might have read in the circular you have received that these meetings are to be merely clinical, and no papers are to be read, I must admit I am transgressing this established rule, in reading you this address, but I am obliged to confess, it has almost been imposed upon me by my Montreal friends, who do not as well as I do, approve of a President without an address.

Any how I am most happy in expressing my best wishes for the future of this organisation and of saying a few words of welcome to all those who have favoured us with their presence.

I have just said that our meetings are to be essentially clinical, perhaps it would therefore be interesting for some of you to hear about the origine of clinical teaching in the history of medicine:

This way of tuition dates from the sixteenth century; the first attempts of it having been made in Padova, but without any satisfactory results.

However in the mean time the polyclinical teaching existed in Paris, where the students use to accompany their teacher to the homes of the patients in the city, attending the cases there and listening to the lessons of their master.

But it is really to the University of Leyden, in Holland, that we owe the establishment of a permanent form of clinical teaching, in 1630, and it is due to its pupils that it was spread abroad afterwards. It was there that originated the method of having the patient examined by the students, asking them to make a diagnosis of the case and give their opinion on the probable course of the disease and its proper treatment. The autopsy of those who died was also performed in the hospital in order to determine exactly the nature of the disease and what had been the cause of the death.

One of the most renowned physicians of the time who certainly brought fame to the clinic of Leyden was Dr Sylvius de Le Boë.

Whenever he used to approach a patient with the students around him, he would pretend he knew nothing of the case, its nature, symptoms and treatment, and did as of he was learning every thing about it by what