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THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.*

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According to the constitution of this Association, I am now called on to deliver an address, setting forth the conditions of the profession in this province, with such suggestions as I deem it proper to make. In referring especially to the relations existing between the profession and the public in Ontario, I may say, in a general way, that they are pleasant and satisfactory. Our efforts, in a private way, and in a public way, are at least fairly well appreciated. The public are frequently kinder to our profession than we are to each other. In this respect history is simply repeating itself.

If we consider some of the triumphs of medicine during the century now closing, we will find that some of our heroes got little or no support from their professional brethren. One of the most important features of the early years of the century was the complete triumph of vaccination. Edward Jenner had perfect confidence in vaccination in 1770; but, after that, he labored quietly and persistently for thirty long years before he published his first treatise on the subject in 1800. We were told by Dr. Ward Cousins last year, that, although the new method spread rapidly over the whole civilized world, the acceptance of vaccination was due to the efforts of public-spirited men rather than to those of the members of the medical

* President's Address, delivered at meeting of Ontario Medical Association, June, 1900.