

It is well nigh a hopeless task, gentlemen, to even begin to thank you for the great compliment you have paid me in selecting my name for this position, and thus to place me in the long line of distinguished men who have preceded me in this chair since confederation. The honors which normally fall to medical men are few and far between when their lives are spent entirely in their professional calling, but the greatest of all honors are those which come at the hands of one's fellow-practitioners. Be assured, gentlemen, your generous and unexpected action towards me is especially gratifying, and will never be forgotten. Small wonder that I have, in some measure, attempted to requite you by using my best efforts to bring this meeting of the closing century to a successful issue.

This association has in the past been presided over by painstaking and distinguished men, and it is to their past efforts and their unselfish devotion to our highest interests that we owe our life as a society to-day; and I would take this opportunity of according to them our deep sense of gratitude and admiration. This association has gone through many and trying vicissitudes. Its path has not by any means been "*couleur de rose*," but, on the contrary, has many a time and oft been beset with thorns and briars inseparable from the early and struggling life of a plant of culture and refinement. After a nurtured infancy and successful and healthy early life it had its disorders of childhood; its ranks were depleted by that scourge of "non-attendance," which in society life is so horribly contagious, and its very life has been threatened more than once; but like many a healthy and well-born youth whose constitution and habits have been good, it has survived these storms and disasters, and has risen to matured life strong in its purposes, confident in its stability, and determined to fulfil its high functions.

Last year in Toronto the society evidently took a new lease of life, owing to the able presidency of Mr. Irving Cameron and the untiring efforts of the general secretary, Dr. Starr, also a Toronto man, aided to the full by a most capable and zealous local Committee of Arrangements.

Some 242 members registered, and it seemed to be the general opinion that never again must the interest in, and loyalty to, this association be allowed to flag. Do you wonder, gentlemen, that I have been anxious as to the successful outcome of the meeting for 1900? Ottawa loves the Canadian Medical Association, and has endeavored in the past to show her loyalty by affording a resting-place for the annual meeting. We met here in 1871, 1881, 1889 and in 1893. With the exception of the first year mentioned, 1871, when, indeed, I was in swaddling clothes, I have taken a more or less active part in the necessary arrangements;