

work, the conditions toward which the energies of our profession have striven, when our men might be able to join as active participants in the march of progress rather than continue as interested spectators.

It has been said, with some warrant for the statement, that while our clinical staffs have discharged creditably their obligations to the sick, that they have as yet contributed little in the way of researches of scientific value. But surely if they have failed, it has been the failure of accomplishing the impossible, of attaining the end without the means, of turning out the finished product before the erection, manning, organization and equipment of the plant, rather than entirely from fault of the individual.

I should like, if time permitted, to refer to numerous other lines along which a rapid evolutionary process is taking place at the present time, such as the establishment of special institutions for medical research, the wonderful activity in the domain of public health, the popular crusades against tuberculosis, cancer, venereal disease, infant mortality, and occupational diseases; the legislative enactments in connection with workmen's compensation and national insurance, all of them questions in which we are specially interested and toward the solution of which we should use our influence.

It requires no prophetic vision to see the bearing of all these matters on the future of the medical profession. It can be said to our credit that we have always been ready to sacrifice personal interest to the common good, so that whatever tends to progress is assured of our sympathy and hearty support.

There is unfortunately a disposition on the part of some to mistake mere novelty and change for progress; and of others, looking at a broad question from a particular angle, to overestimate the relative importance of one aspect of professional activity, usually their own, as compared with another. It is here that the steadying influence and hard common sense of the profession at large, whose theories have been tempered by the cool winds of practical experience, should make its influence felt, so that, while ready to try all things, we may hold fast to that which is good, at least until something better is at hand, and under all circumstances let us be assured that come what may, the chief aim and object of our profession shall be kept steadily in view the control and cure of disease.

But it must not be assumed that the future progress of medicine is bound up entirely in the activities of colleges, hospitals, research institutes, Boards of Health, and so forth. The important strategic position occupied by the general practitioner for attacking many of the problems of disease for studying the initiation of disease, its course perhaps through many years, and its final outcome has not been fully appreciated.