

The Canada Lancet

Vol. XLI.

JANUARY, 1908.

No. 5.

IDEALS IN MEDICINE.*

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FELLOWS of the Academy of Medicine, gentlemen and ladies, allow me to thank you for the honor conferred upon me when elected as President of this Academy of Medicine of Toronto. It is my intention to hand over the tiller at the end of my term, feeling that the new craft has been safely launched in a calm sea, and that it is so built that it will be well able to weather any storm. As first captain of the ship, I have felt it incumbent on me to make a few remarks regarding the rules of the sea, and the dangers to be avoided in navigation. Any shortcomings in this address must be attributed to two causes—inability to do better, and hasty preparation. We have all listened to the regulation presidential address, and we have all wondered why they are delivered with such regularity and with so little benefit; however, I am forced to inflict you as a matter of custom.

During our professional career there are occasions that stand out in bold relief—occasions such as this, when one who is passing into the autumn of life addresses his fellows in his beloved profession from the pedestal upon which they have set him. It is quite probable that the sentiments expressed may not find a sympathetic response in the breasts of all, for it is neither possible nor desirable that we should all think alike, but with one sentiment I feel satisfied everyone will agree, the necessity for that spirit of unity, peace and concord in our Academy of Medicine which is so essential to the dignity and usefulness of our profession.

We have here a large city that has grown to its present proportions with astonishing rapidity. Our educational institutions, we hope, have kept pace with this amazing growth, and among them, as the chief ornament, our *alma mater*, of which we are justly proud.

After many weary years of isolated divorce the medical faculty was reunited in the bonds of matrimony, and again became one of the consorts, and not the least, of our many husbanded mother. After the consummation of this happy event a still greater and still stronger union took place when the two great educational families were merged in one. The time seemed ripe for a union, not only of the two great teaching families, but of the little medical experience meetings—our medical societies, into a much greater, more efficient, more active and a better organized body,

*Presidential Address at the Academy of Medicine, 3rd Dec., 1907.