

May I also express to our distinguished American visitors the great pleasure their presence affords us, and how much we appreciate the readiness they have shown to contribute to our programme, especially at a time when we are handicapped by the absence of so many of our own members. We take it as a further evidence of the feeling of kinship, common interest and sympathy existing between our countries, and which is so happily marked this year by the celebration of a century of peace.

It may be of interest to you gentlemen from the neighboring republic to know that there is now in this city a regiment of eleven hundred of your countrymen preparing to enter the fight to uphold those principles of freedom and justice dear alike to your country and our own.

We in Canada share a common belief that after the war the great centre of scientific medical interest and activity will be on this side the Atlantic—American in the widest application of the term—and those who have watched the wonderful progress which medical science has made in the United States in recent years will have no misgivings as to your qualifications for leadership.

To our fellow-countrymen who have come back after winning distinction in medicine under another flag we extend a hearty welcome. You will not find the Canada you left a few years ago the Canada of to-day, but a country chastened by recent experiences, conscious of great responsibilities, purged of many faults, yet quickened in every fibre of her national life, proud of her sacrifices for the Empire and humanity, and confident of her future.

It is a part of our national creed that what the nineteenth century was to the great neighboring republic the twentieth century will be to Canada.

The foundations of medicine in Canada were laid a century ago by the army surgeons who saw service in the war against Napoleon, and we may look for a similar influence in our further evolution to be exerted by those of our number now in service in the greater struggle against the Kaiser. The spirit of freedom and love of liberty which has called them to duty overseas will return with them accentuated by their experiences, to withstand injustice and tyranny from whatever quarter it may appear, to oppose weak submission to wrong and to assist in promoting a worthy national sentiment.

In conclusion, may I express to my fellow-officers of the Ontario Medical Association my deep sense of obligation and gratitude for the loyal support and co-operation accorded me in arranging for this meeting, under difficult and at times discouraging circumstances.