

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—BEFORE THE TORONTO CLINICAL SOCIETY.

By EDMUND E. KING, M.D.

Fellows of the Clinical Society:

It is with a sense of deepest appreciation that I desire to thank you for the high honor you have done me in electing me to the position of Presiding Officer for the present year. The Clinical Society I consider to be the most progressive Medical Society in Toronto to day, and I hope that during the coming year it will not in any way deteriorate. To follow in the footsteps of such men as have previously occupied this chair makes the position one of considerable difficulty. These gentlemen have all done the Society honor and credit, else we would not have the progressive Society that we have to-day. I hope that during the coming year the members will take a greater personal interest in the Society by presenting clinical cases, and in discussing the communications presented by the Fellows. It is neither fair nor just to gentlemen presenting cases and papers before us that they should not be received with free, open and frank discussion. We are here to help one another, to give each other the benefit of our experiences, and to reap the advantages which accrue from the scientific presentation of clinical medicine and surgery. The free and open discussion of papers brings out material that is of advantage to everybody, and allows each to have the benefit of the other's experiences. It is not necessary to be verbose in order to be instructive, nor to take a great length of time in medical discussion, in fact this is a place where brevity is highly appreciated; at the same time we should not be too brief by remaining silent. I hope that during the year the members will endeavor as much as possible to confine their communications to clinical conditions, and as often as possible accompany them with the presentation of patients. Didactic communications are undoubtedly beneficial, but in a clinical society they are not as much in place as those that deal with the clinical aspects of disease. It is well in every case possible to have patients presented, but too often these patients are brought without either a written or well prepared history. Speakers owe a debt to the Society and they should not waste time. If the history is written out before and presented precisely, time is saved to the whole Society, and the case is presented in a much clearer and more instructive form than when the history is given in a rambling way. During the year we have only seven regular meetings, and with a membership of sixty it