

assembled, the *Medicine* or *Mystery* man, the Maskiki inini, sought, by incantations and other devices, to relieve the distressed in body of their sufferings. And even now, near where villages dot the surface, and towns and cities usurp the primeval forest, charms and amulets and the potent mystery bag are, despite the laugh of the white man, used to ward off the ills and perils of life.

The history of Surgery in this Dominion is the history of its civilization. When Jacques Cartier dropped anchor at the foot of Hochelaga, (at a period when Polypharmacy drenched its victims with its multifarious combinations) and when his fellow-countryman, Ambroise Paré, made known *au très Chrestien Roi de France et de Pologne* the boldness of his surgical skill, the aborigines also had their doctors and conjurors who were valued as dignitaries in the tribe; "the greatest respect was paid to them by the whole community, not only for their skill in their *materia medica*, but more especially for their tact in magic and mysteries." "In all tribes their doctors were conjurors, 'magicians,' 'sooth-sayers,' 'high priests.' They superintended and conducted all ceremonies." "In all councils of war and peace they had a seat with the chiefs, were regularly consulted before any public step was taken, and the greatest deference and respect were paid to their opinions."\* It is meet, Mr. President and Gentlemen, that in this, the first address in Surgery before the representatives of the profession in this Dominion, I should say a few words of that singular class of men now fast passing away, our *devanciers* in the healing art on this continent; and however much may have been achieved in that art since then, we, their *remplaçants* must admit, that with less mystery and with better claims to regard, we receive not always so considerable a degree of influence and consideration. But waving wheat fields take the place of forests; the red man wends steadily and fatally to the setting sun; and our forefathers of European

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\* Catlin