

THE CANADA LANCET.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE,
CRITICISM AND NEWS.

VOL. XXI.] TORONTO, JULY, 1889. [No. 11.

Original Communications.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

BY DR. W. HENDERSON, KINGSTON, ONT.

Delivered June 5th, 1889.

GENTLEMEN,—When little less than a year ago I was chosen President of this Association, while attempting to express my appreciation of the distinguished place to which you had elevated me, I said that I felt no little diffidence in accepting such a responsible position. I have since experienced, what time has only served to impress more fully upon me, the responsibilities of this high office, and has rendered greater my gratitude for the support and confidence reposed in me by this Association.

The honor which you have conferred on me may well be sought by any member of our profession, and I am deeply sensible of the fact that no exclusive personal merit of my own could command a place so much beyond my most sanguine expectations, hence, I feel that my selection was suggested chiefly because it was the desire of this Association that a member from Eastern Ontario should occupy the Presidential chair.

I also take it as a sign of encouragement to the younger medical men of this Province, when one is chosen from their ranks to fill an office which has hitherto been so ably occupied by men who are justly looked upon as leaders of our profession, both on account of their long experience and valuable contributions to medical science. I wish, therefore, to offer you my most heartfelt thanks for the honor you have bestowed upon me. At the same time, I would bespeak your kind indulgence, and although I cannot hope to fulfil my duties as well as any of my predecessors in office, yet I can assure you that it has been my endea-

vor to emulate their zeal for your welfare, by always using my best exertions to promote the interests of this Association.

In welcoming you to our ninth annual meeting, I am pleased to note that the interest taken in this Association ever since its establishment has not abated, and the large attendance here to-day may surely be taken as an index of its popularity among the profession in Ontario. The arrangements made for this meeting are, as you will learn from the programme, complete in every respect, and I trust that in the discussions on the different topics, every member present will feel at perfect liberty to engage. It affords me no small degree of pleasure to join with you in extending a cordial welcome to several distinguished members of the profession from the neighboring Republic. These visitors are welcome as members of a brotherhood in practical pursuit of one grand object, and knowing no distinction of country, race, or creed. Our American friends have long since learned the value of such organizations as this, and in their county, state and national associations they have done much to advance the interests of the medical profession in the United States.

The brilliant men who have been honored members of the American medical profession have all been active in promoting the success of medical organizations for the discussion of scientific subjects, and have done much towards elevating the profession by such gatherings, to a higher plane of usefulness and honor.

We also gladly greet our *confrères* from the sister Province who are here to-day, not only because they come as representatives of a great university faculty, but also for the reason that we know them to be men of high professional standing and attainments.

During the past year several who have been active members of our profession have been called from labor to rest, and of many of these departed brethren it may be said, "Their good works do follow them." Some received the summons while in the prime of life, and while actively engaged in their chosen work. To enumerate at length their names and virtues is not necessary, but one has fallen from our ranks whose distinguished talents and successful career entitle him to special mention, and who will long be remembered. I refer to Dr. R. P. Howard, late Dean of McGill College,