

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

KINGSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY, OCT. 3, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—At this the opening meeting of my term of office, it has been thought advisable that I should address you, upon some matters which appear to me to be of interest to the practitioners of medicine in this Province. Before attempting to do so permit me to take this my first opportunity of thanking you for the honour you conferred upon me when you elected me your president. I must say that I would be inclined to doubt the wisdom of the choice then made were it not for the fact that by so doing I would be calling in question the good sense of those who deliberately and unanimously elected me as their executive head. Gentlemen, I assure you I appreciate the honour, and I will do all in my power to perform the duties of the office satisfactorily to you, and I trust that at the end of the year you will not have cause to regret your action in electing me your President.

With your permission I will now draw your attention to a few subjects which seem to me to be live questions, affecting the welfare of our profession.

In the first place I would ask your indulgence while I express my views upon the course of studies as prescribed by the Medical Council of Ontario. Believing that anything which affects the welfare and standing of the profession as a whole is of personal interest to each individual member of the profession, it appears to me to be the duty of each to express his opinions upon such matters and that in so doing he need not necessarily be actuated by a spirit of faultfinding. The best friend of the council, it appears to me, is he who, seeing where a change can be made that will be of advantage to the profession points it out, as I will endeavor to do, in a spirit of fairness and candour. A course of studies which ten years ago was the best that could be devised need not necessarily be the best that can be devised to-day. Especially is this true of medicine. Not only are new subjects of study coming into existence but the methods of studying some of the older branches of medical science have completely changed. A few years ago the science of Bacteriology was practically unknown; now it is a necessary part of every physician's store of knowledge. Pathology, until recently, was