

Vice-President, Professor Ramsay Wright, and I believe that all members of the Faculty will agree with me when I say, that we owe him a very great debt, for the influence which his teaching has exerted upon the breadth of outlook which our students have developed. The students of to-day will hardly realize that the point which was most severely attacked by the enemies of the University Medical Faculty in 1887 was the introduction of general biology in the course and the prominence given to that subject; and now, when entering the sixteenth session, that we may look upon that subject and its influence upon the rest of the curriculum as one of the glories of the Faculty, we must acknowledge that this is owing to the catholicity of spirit of the head of that department.

It is not my intention, however, to address you to-night on the necessity of a proper biological training as a foundation for medicine; that has been done by other and abler hands than mine; and although it is ever an interesting subject to discuss, the fact is now everywhere admitted and needs no discussion.

To-day, another epoch in the history of medicine has been reached, an epoch which we must all regard with sadness, although it is an epoch which we have all known must soon come. We are to-day, students of Modern Medicine, mourning the father of Modern Medicine, Virchow. Virchow is dead, and with his passing is broken the last link between scientific medicine, which he did so much to establish, and of those older ideas of the first half of the nineteenth century, which he did so much to overthrow. For over fifty years Virchow's mind has dominated our science, and for all time his influence will be felt; it is fitting that on such an occasion we should devote more than a passing notice to the life and work of our great master. I wish this evening, therefore, for a short time to direct your attention to the life of Virchow, and to attempt in some measure to give you an idea of what his life work has meant for Medicine and what a loss Medicine suffers by his death.

In order to properly appreciate his influence, we must first consider, for a moment, the condition in which he found the science when he graduated from the University of Berlin in 1843.

During the first forty years of the nineteenth century great advances have been made, especially in gross anatomy, both normal and pathological; in England the teaching of Hunter had done much to emancipate medicine from the errors of the eighteenth century; in France great progress had been made under Bichat, Laënnec, Andral, and Cruveilhier; while in Austria, Rokitansky, one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, gross pathologist of all time had added immensely to the accurate knowledge of the gross appearance of disease as seen in the autopsy room; but everywhere we find that the mysticism of the eighteenth century dominated ideas, and metaphysical speculations still took the place of careful