

ness of purpose, and a more general exaltation of the aims of medical men. And he concluded thus :—" This age is distinguished by an unbounded activity in all the sciences of observation. Of all these sciences yours is the noblest. It is given to you to study the relations between the wonderful body, and the still more wonderful soul and mind of man. You tread that borderland in which the two come in contact. It is very easy to describe the post office or the railway system, but you have to deal with a thing far more subtle when you attempt to grasp human nature as a whole. Human progress is not to be described by formularies. It is only by the most patient observation that a sound and comprehensive knowledge on such a subject can be acquired. To you it belongs to seize the great opportunities and to accept the great responsibilities which attach to the profession of which you are members, and to shew yourselves worthy of the great vocation with which you are entrusted."

Apologising for having occupied so much of your valuable time, and again thanking you for the high honor you have conferred upon me (probably as a recognition of the part I took in originating and organizing this association) I leave its perfection in your hands, gentlemen, and in your hands it is safe. It is, I firmly believe, destined to promote the blessings of fraternal harmony, professional unity and successful self-government. An Association such as ours—composed of scientific philanthropists—the residents of the frozen north and the sunny south ; the denizens of the forests, hills and dales, lakes and islands of a whole continent, animated by the most lofty and honorable impulses, casting their various and opposite opinions and prejudices together on the common altar of science, and uniting in one independent, cosmopolitan band, from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia—from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, must and will be felt and heard. United, concord-ed action no law can resist ;—no law-maker can repudiate.

Finally, gentlemen, when I retire from this chair I shall remember that " the private station is the post of honor," and I beg to assure you that I shall always (whether present or absent) try to uphold the honor and dignity of our noble profession, and especially of this Association.

A YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH ETHER.

BY A. HAMILTON, M.A., M.B., MILLBROOK, ONT.

One year ago I determined to abandon the use of chloroform in producing anæsthesia in so far as practicable. The advantages and disadvantages of chloroform and ether have been so often discussed that the subject would seem to be trite. Yet an unbiassed statement of actual results with ether may be of value where, as in Canada, the use of chloroform generally prevails ; and this the more when we are occasionally startled by a death from chloroform, as we have been recently in a town in central Ontario, in which it would seem that the anæsthetic was not faultless, or at least helped to produce the disastrous result. The tenor of this paper will be that, with ordinary care, *death from an anæsthetic is wholly avoidable and unnecessary.*

Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, has given the following terse advice :

- " 1. Accept the odor and bulk of ether as a cheap compromise for the safety of the patient and the confidence it gives the operator.
- 2. Believe that the anæsthetic effects, whether pleasant or objectionable, do not materially differ from those of chloroform.
- 3. Recognize the fact that while chloroform may kill without warning, ether never does.
- 4. Aim at anæsthesia by inebriation, not by asphyxia."

During the past year, then, I have acted upon Bigelow's advice, except in cases of extreme inconvenience, and have administered (or had administered for me under my immediate supervision),

Ether.....	about 80 times.
Chloroform.....	" 5 "
Ether, followed by chloroform.....	" 1 "
Chloroform, followed by ether.....	" 0 "
Ether and chloroform mixed.....	" 0 "

Of the five chloroform administrations, three were at the request of other surgeons, who produced the chloroform ; one was at a great distance from the office, and the carriage of bulky ether was inconvenient ; and the fifth case was one in which, after introducing and locking the obstetric forceps, an anæsthetic was unexpectedly required, and