

been presented, read, and approved by this Association, and which must have cost their authors much study, valuable time and trouble, remain a dead letter,—a dumb record—a sealed book to the whole medical and scientific world. For this seeming neglect I know not whether the accomplished and industrious writers, or the reading members of the Profession at large have most reason to complain. Although this Association was organized for the protection of the interests of the Medical Profession, and the maintenance of its honor and respectability, it also contemplated the advancement of its knowledge, and the extension of its usefulness; and shall it be said of us, that we have done nothing to promote these high and laudable objects because our transactions embrace none of the essays and papers which for originality, learning and profound research would be worthy of honorable place in any similar volume? Let us, Gentlemen, this day, I repeat, wipe out this reproach, and either publish them, or return them to their respective authors, for such action as they may see fit to adopt, for nothing should be kept back or hidden in this progressive age. Progressive age did I say? Yes, progressive! And it would be very easy did time permit to shew the wonderful strides that medical art has made even in our own days. It has been raised from the level of a mere conjectural science to the status of a positive art. Mental agony and physical torture have now succumbed to bloodless and painless operations. Operations which formerly no amount of moral or physical courage could have induced the sufferer to submit to, are now endured with complacency.

Chemistry is a new science.

Were it possible to weld the link in the mortal chain which was so suddenly snapped asunder on the morning of the 29th of May, 1829, at Geneva, in Switzerland,—or to revive the mortal spark in the poor boy of Penzance, Cornwall, who was a popular lecturer on Chemistry to the Royal Institution, London, at 22 years of age,—or to bring before this Meeting him who for seven successive years was the unopposed President of the Royal Society of London, Sir Humphrey Davy, he, like Rip Van Winkle, would find all the ancient landmarks swept away by the progress of that science which his genius had done so much to fructify and embellish. He would be a student still, Gentlemen, as we all ought always to be.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary strides that have been made of late years in the Medical and Surgical arts and sciences, and the accessory branches

of knowledge; and although the rewards are by no means equal to the responsibilities of the medical practitioner, nevertheless his sterling worth is not unfrequently recognized and requited.

Mr. Gladstone, at the dinner of the British Medical Association last year, paid a just tribute to our art, and said that but for the care and watchfulness of a succession of able physicians it would have been impossible for him to have gone through the fatigues of public life. It is, said he, among the wonderful and noble distinctions of your illustrious Profession that, although its members may not receive that acknowledgment which awaits the soldier when he falls on the battle-field, yet they are to be found in countless numbers among the truest martyrs in the cause of humanity. He further said, truly, that medical knowledge has advanced in recent years in a degree which is not, perhaps, paralleled in any other profession. There is at present a greater and more sustained earnestness 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 at 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