

from pyæmia, and the mortality of lying-in hospitals reduced to the limits of normal parturition. For the past twenty years honours many and great have been showered upon him. Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Toronto, and now McGill, have vied with one another in hastening to do him homage. Our Sovereign in conferring upon him the richly deserved distinctions which he bears with such gracious dignity only gives expression to the general feeling of his countrymen throughout the Empire and his admirers the world over. We are glad, I say, to have him with us to-day: his presence is an intellectual stimulus and an energizing force in our deliberations.

It is, I understand, an unwritten law of the Association that the President shall not in his address encroach upon the topics which belong by right and usage to the readers of the main addresses and to the presidents of the various sections. I have observed that the majority of my predecessors have contented themselves with discoursing on objects and circumstances of local interest: they describe the town or city in which the meeting is held, or perhaps they discuss questions of a public character. In the absence of an address on public medicine, others have taken that for their theme. It has been my unhappy lot to select and consider subjects only to find in quick succession that they had already been appropriated, either by the Journal of the Association, in describing so fully Montreal and its surroundings; or by the editors of the Official Guide or Souvenir, who have given a very comprehensive description of Canada; or by some of the gentlemen who preside over the sections, who, I have been led to understand, purpose discussing questions of medical education. I fear therefore that what I have to say this afternoon will fall far short of the brilliant presidential addresses which members of this association have been accustomed to in other years. Indeed when I look at the long roll of eminent men who have been my predecessors in this high office—men oftentimes distinguished for their literary gifts as well as for their exalted position in the medical world—I confess that I marvel at my temerity in accepting so great a responsibility. In speaking of my predecessors allow me especially to refer to the retiring President, Dr. Henry Barnes, whose courteous and kindly manners, together with his sterling ability, makes us all glad to know that his election as a Vice-President for life insures his continued official and active connection with the Association. Here might I also be permitted to say how greatly I appreciated the many kindnesses and courtesies extended to me by the President (Dr. Saundby) and Members of the Council when in London last winter, making the initial arrangements for this meeting.