

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

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IT is my first duty, as well as pleasure, to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude for the honour you have done me in electing me to the chief office in this Association. I have experienced the unusual courtesy of an election for a second term. This, however, may not imply a compliment but rather a reprimand and an injunction—a reprimand for duty left undone, and an injunction to be more diligent in the discharge of duties of this high office, not to neglect the opportunities nor evade the responsibilities pertaining thereto. If so, I freely acknowledge the justice of the censure. The Presidency has been held by several of the ablest physicians this country has produced, and to succeed such men would be an honour to any one. It would, however, have been in the interests of the Association and much more in accord with my own feelings, had the by-law been observed, which requires that the president be elected from the city in which the meeting is to be held. In justice to Montreal this should have been done, as then some of our difficulties would have been avoided, and such honour as pertains to the position would have been bestowed where it belongs.

However, under the circumstances it is my pleasing duty to gratefully acknowledge the cordial sympathy shown by our Montreal friends, a generous cordiality in keeping with their well-known character. I can only most sincerely thank them for their cordial good-will and co-operation. I hope it will be my privilege

to welcome one of their number as President at the next meeting held in Toronto, when I hope to be able to show evidence of my appreciation of the uniform kindness that has been extended to me here. I wish further to express my great appreciation of the work of the Executive and various committees; the results are evident in the excellence of this meeting.

I may be permitted here to give expression to the deep sorrow with which every member of this Association heard of the calamity that overtook McGill University and Medical Faculty in the loss of their building last April. It is not necessary to assure them of our sympathy. The loss was not McGill's only, but was one also to medical education in this country and on this continent.

We are glad to know that the cloud had its silver lining and that now they are to be congratulated on the near prospect of a magnificent new building than consoled with on the loss of the old one, good as it was. We knew that "Phoenix-like," the institution would rise from its ashes and be greater than ever. As we sorrowed with them so will we all now rejoice with them. We wish them "God-speed."

During the past year several members of this Association have gone to "the bourne whence no traveller returns." Among these were three of the most eminent in the Canadian profession, men of world wide reputation, to whose memory a brief reference is permissible. In this bereavement