

understand they have had no sinecure. If we have time to carry out the work represented in the programme I am quite sure the meeting will be most interesting and instructive, and I venture to hope one of the most successful in the history of the Association.

Before I go further I wish to extend to our guests from abroad the right hand of cordiality and to say to them that I do not know the members of the profession resident in Toronto aright if by any chance they fail in being made to feel wholly at home. We invite them to take part in our discussions—giving us the light of their experience.

Indeed, the highest success of such a meeting as this can only be attained when every member feels it his duty to contribute what he can to the discussions. Innate modesty is all very well, but here we are a band of searchers after truth, burning with desire to know all that can be known as to the best methods of battling with disease, of relieving suffering, and of saving human life. It is not much short of a crime if any member, through modesty, keep silent if he has any knowledge to impart. It may not be necessary thus to encourage our brethren from the larger centres to speak in the discussions; they are accustomed, as teachers in the schools or members of the various medical societies, to discuss any subject. But I do wish that the members from the country be not too modest; their isolation compels them to be keen observers and necessarily self-reliant, and I am quite sure the discussions will gain in interest if they take a fair share in them.

We have entered a new century. Contrasted with the state of Medicine at the beginning of last century what vast advantages we possess! The discovery of anesthesia about the middle of the last century and of the proper use of antiseptics twenty years later, and of the real meaning of surgical cleanliness at a still later period, have opened a wide field for advancement in which this century has grand opportunities to make medical history. If we fail to make even greater progress than has ever yet been made we must consider ourselves less studious, less observant and less capable than our predecessors.

Surgery is now almost wholly different from what it was twenty years ago. There are prominent and successful surgeons who affect to despise the great attention given to antiseptic details which others think essential; but this much is true of all: every surgeon aims at being aseptic, if not antiseptic, in his methods. The man who is faithful to the idea of asepsis, even if he laughs at the use of rubber gloves in operations and makes light of other details, is still influenced unconsciously by the teaching of the great Lister. It is true that although the ritual which was once thought essential is fast disappearing, the results obtained under present methods are equally as good.

In Medicine the immense benefit to the human race by the dis-