

different men and different schools, and different nations, rendered possible by the means referred to, is one of the greatest of all the powers which have worked together for the development and improvement of this the most directly humanitarian of all the arts and sciences.

But, while claiming for such associations as the "Canadian Medical," the most unstinted credit as a means of advancement, I am far from being so certain that such functions as the one which your kind and generous partiality has accorded to me, are to be regarded as the most effective or profitable mode of using the time and energies of the members.

I am an ardent advocate of such meetings as the present one. The reading and discussion of original papers, the reporting of cases, the exhibition of instruments and specimens, the congenial gathering of ourselves together, sometimes from long distances, the recalling of old associations and the forming of new, the hospitable and convivial breaking of bread and drinking of water in each other's society, the after dinner speech and all that that implies, I approve of with all my heart.

But when it comes to didactic addresses even on surgery, and the progress, and the wonder, and the glory thereof, I am not quite so clear, unless peradventure, the orator happens to have the power, genius and courage of a Tait to electrify his audience and the whole profession with the originality and, at the same time, the reasonableness of his revolutionary views as to the best ways and means of teaching surgery; or, the no less impressive force and grace of a Hingston, by virtue of which the mental eye of the greatest of all medical associations is persuaded to open widely in amazement and delight, as a system of aboriginal surgery, practised in the wilds of far-off America, is unfolded in language not less remarkable for its simplicity and clearness than for its eloquence and pathos.

Happy, indeed, are the orators who can deliver, and the associations which have the privilege of listening to such addresses. In undertaking to speak of the progress of surgery in our own time, it will at once become obvious that on such an occasion as the present, it is out of the question to attempt to do more than