

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Ontario Medical Association, 30th May, 1917, By A. Dalton Smith, M.D.,
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MR. VICE-PRESIDENT, ladies and gentlemen of the Ontario Medical Association,—I should like to avail myself of this the first opportunity which has offered to thank you for the great, and so far as I know the entirely undeserved honor which you did me a year ago in electing me to the presidency of this association, representing as it does the medical profession in the large and important Province of Ontario. And though deeply sensible of the personal honor, I am still very far from appropriating it in the personal sense. I take it that you wished to recognize and to honor the claims of the members of this association residing in the western part of this Province; and on behalf of my confreres of Western Ontario and especially of the Huron District, I desire to thank you for your recognition and for your courtesies.

It is perhaps fortunate that the constitution of this Association rather definitely prescribes what shall be the scope and general character of the president's annual message. I shall therefore follow the example set by a large number of my respected predecessors in this office, and confine my brief remarks to some matters of general interest at this important time in the history of the world and in the history of the great empire to which we belong, and also to a few questions of especial interest to the members of our profession in this province at the present time.

We are meeting now and for the third time under the awful shadow of the greatest war in all the world's long history. Greatest in the number and importance of the nations involved. Greatest in the vast number of men engaged in actual conflict. Greatest and most terrible because of the perfected engines of war, which modern science has produced. And greatest because of the important issues which we believe to be at stake, and which threaten not only our national existence, but also the existence of those personal and political liberties which our forefathers through long centuries have bravely fought for and as bravely died to obtain.

I recall the forceful words of my predecessor who a year ago told us that, "Our Empire and her Allies were engaged in a death struggle to uphold the cause of freedom and justice against a military despotism which under the guise of Kultur is seeking world power with the ethics and by the methods of the barbarian," these words entirely true when