

union." These various societies were doing excellent work ;but all now recognize what a great step onwards was made when their union was effected under one name and for one great purpose—the creation of an *esprit de corps* in the medical profession which shall make *noblesse oblige* the supreme law. In all things we follow the injunction of Shakespeare, "Do as adversaries do in law, strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends." It is in this way that we hope to bring out the best that is in each of us; for we accept the truth of Browning's teaching in his Paracelsus that "Progress is the law of life." We have all been working with the fullest conviction that "outworn ideals are fading fast away," and that "new occasions teach new duties"; and so we have inscribed on our banner the words of Longfellow, "Act, act in the living present," in order that we may "build firmly on a wide and ample base."

The greatest of all incentives for a people are the noble deeds of the past and high ambitions for the future. As members of the medical profession we have a splendid history to look back upon, while a wide future of usefulness is opening up before us. As to our achievements, without being boastful, we can sing in the words of Milton that "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." Religious sects have many bitter persecutions to explain away, and nations, all down the vista of history, have waged wars of the most savage nature against each other; but nowhere in the past have acts of pillage, persecution or murder been charged against the medical profession. It has ever stood for the rights of man, for his social advancement, for his physical welfare, and for his intellectual elevation. The medical profession has ever been feeding the serpent of the Temple of Hygeia that it might remain appeased and spare the people. To all races and creeds we have ever extended the olive branch and taken with us the white-winged dove of goodwill. Mythically descended from Apollo, the sun god, through Æsculapius, the medical profession has always been, like that ancient deity, affording help and warding off evil. No wonder it is then that so great a writer as Carlyle could exclaim, "To the mitred bishop, nay even to the highest prince in the land, I might not make obeisance; but to the physician making his visit in the dark hours of the night, oft-times without hope of reward, en ecce! to him I would doff my hat."

For more than two years national and international conditions in Europe have been undergoing transformation in the melting pot. Just as it was true in the palmy days of Julius Cæsar that all roads led to Rome, so is it true that all the evidences and arguments as to the causes of the present war lead to Berlin. There are now fourteen independent countries involved in this horrible war. These countries represent a total population of about nine hundred millions, or considerably more