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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

GENTLEMEN.—I again desire to express my appreciation of the honor this Society has done me in electing me as its president, and when I realize that I am occupying this same chair which has been occupied by so many distinguished members of our profession, not only am I deeply grateful for this distinction but I feel oppressed with the weight of my responsibility. While I may fall far short of my predecessors in the results which may follow my labors, I will be behind none in my efforts to make the meetings of this season a success. Before I begin my short paper and before beginning this year's work, I think it a fitting time to refer to the great loss this Society has suffered since we last met, in the death of one of our oldest, most distinguished and most beloved members. The death of Dr. J. E. Graham deprived this Society not only of an active and honored member, but its members of a wise counsellor and faithful friend. We will miss him sadly. We mourn with the bereaved family and I would suggest that now as we meet as a Society for the first time, since our great loss, we would pass a resolution expressing our sympathy for Mrs. Graham and her family and have sent to them a copy of the same.

The members of this Society have often had the privilege of listening to many valuable papers dealing with important and difficult subjects and of hearing many interesting discussions, and of seeing cases both medical and surgical exhibiting not only a keenness in diagnosis, but a skill in treatment and a brilliancy of handiwork which have been to its members valuable sources of information, as well as an incentive to better work.

This evening I have ventured to ask your attention for but a short time to a subject, which, considering the great strides made in this department, has not received from us, I venture to think, the thought it deserves. I refer to the subject of "preventive medicine." In the very early times, even so far back as the days of Moses, the laws laid down (though from the lack of scientific knowledge they were necessarily empirical) for the prevention of infection was most complete, in fact,