

pared for what I encountered. In every one of the many sections, judging from the syllabus afforded, the papers were of as high order as one finds at Washington and elsewhere at meetings of the special associations—I know that they were in the Pathological section which I attended. There was a combined meeting one morning, to discuss the subject of Disease of the Thyroid. Thyroid disease is not common; it is only in Michigan and the northern States that goitre is at all frequent, while exophthalmic goitre in general cures itself if you give it time. The subject is not one making a special appeal to the general practitioner; what is more the discussion was opened by a relatively young physiologist, followed by two equally young pathologists, and only then by a physician and two surgeons. Throughout there was maintained the same high scientific level. But there were between three and four thousand practitioners attending that session. The acoustics of the hall were poor, there was no brilliant discovery to be announced, but so intent was everyone that the hall remained packed to the very end, and so still was the audience that it is scarce an exaggeration to state that, save between the addresses, one might hear drop the proverbial pin. I have been at the crowded general meetings of more than one international congress, but never has a collection of medical men so appealed to me. There was that mass of, in the main, general practitioners straining to hear the last news, the latest word that science and practice had to say; not to gain tips, but to know for the love of knowledge.

And if, gentlemen, that is the spirit animating our colleagues south of the line, I am convinced that the same animates the body medical here in Canada. It is an attempt to tickle the palate of the aforementioned "rustics," rather than an appeal to the thoughtful and those who would advance themselves and welcome advance in the profession they love, to run down research and decry a practical intimacy with the basal sciences upon which is built the science of medicine, as was done, I regret to say, in an address delivered at the last meeting of this Association in Montreal. I speak frankly, for the speaker on that occasion is nothing if not frank, and his crime deserves the pillory. What perverse spirit entered into him upon that occasion I do not know, for his life stands out in violent contrast to his words—his life, not merely as a constant student, but as enthusiastic teacher, one who, if any one had sinned in requiring too much laboratory work, was himself the prince of sinners, for he demanded, and still demands, that the students put in at least four times as