

Miscellaneous

BANQUET TO SIR JAMES GRANT.

In recognition of fifty years spent in the practice of medicine, during forty-nine of which he was located in Ottawa, Sir James Grant was recently entertained to a banquet at the Russell House by the medical fraternity of the capital, and presented with an address and a silver loving-cup. Covers were laid at the dinner for eighty-five guests, and the medical profession of the Ottawa Valley was represented by its most distinguished members, who vied with each other in showing attention to the honored guest of the evening, who, after half a century of labor in the most arduous of callings, still retains in a marvelous degree the vigor and elasticity of youth. Sheriff Sweetland, M.D., filled the chair with dignity, having on his right Sir James Grant, and on his left Sir Frederick Borden. The usual loyal toasts were proposed and honored with characteristic heartiness, after which the chairman proposed the toast of "Our Guest," and alluded to his having introduced the first Canadian Pacific Railway bill. The address was read in an impressive manner by Dr. Cousens, and the presentation made amid enthusiastic cheers. Sir James Grant, who appeared to be greatly touched by this demonstration of friendship, returned his hearty thanks and favored the company with some reminiscences of his medical career. Proceeding, he said :

In no profession at the present day have greater advances been made than on the lines of surgery and of medicine. At the commencement of the nineteenth century the investigations of Jenner with reference to vaccination for the prevention of smallpox were being vigorously prosecuted. Since that day, notwithstanding the great opposition to this extremely important principle, it is now generally recognized that vaccination is the only safe means that can possibly be adopted to abolish finally the spread of this loathsome disease of smallpox. At that time, and for years afterwards, the study of anatomy was very much interrupted, owing to the want of material. Physiology was then in its infancy, and pathology was very largely a matter of speculation. Chemistry was in stages of possible investigation, and chemical medicine rose up almost in advance of any other department of medicine by the careful scientific investigation of Lennec, of Paris, who so advanced the theory of disease connected with lung tissue that he established a name and reputation recognized throughout the scientific world. In those days peritonitis was a common disease, and almost universally fatal. A major operation was considered the equivalent almost of a death warrant. Two great lights in London, Bright and Addison,