

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—In taking possession of this chair, the first duty (as well as the highest pleasure) is to express to you my profound gratitude for the honour you have conferred upon me in calling me to occupy it. Permit me to assure you that I am fully sensible of that honour, and that I realize, at the same time, the important duties your partiality has imposed; and, believe me, if I fail to discharge them to your, or to my own satisfaction, it will not be for want of good will on my part. My predecessors in this chair,—chosen for their fitness, at different times, from various parts of the Dominion,—have consigned to me the continuation of a labour begun ten years ago in the ancient city of Quebec, for the advancement of that benevolent profession with which we are so closely united or related. Although much has already been accomplished, we must admit that *all* the advantages hoped for from its founders have not yet been realized. Sufficient has been effected, however, to satisfy them and us, that a greater degree of energy on the part of the members of this Association, pervading, adjusting, sustaining, and agitating the whole, would have been attended with a greater measure of success. But in a profession such as is ours, ever varying, ever undergoing mutation of some kind; endeavouring to eliminate what can no longer be productive of good; and to appropriate what it wishes to retain; and with difficulties arising from geographical and social conditions, the Association has, indeed, effected some good since its formation.

It has been the custom, for some time past, at the opening addresses before societies of this nature in Europe, and chiefly in Great Britain, to take up some department of the healing art, or some master or explorer who has passed away. Thus Paget advocates, at length, before the Surgical Society, the claims of Hunter as a physiologist; Sieveking vindicates anew the claims of Harvey to be considered the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. But at the annual meetings of this Association, where time is not afforded for abstract questions of historic interest, we are confined to those of practical moment—those politico-medical questions, chiefly, which concern us most.