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SCARLET FEVER: SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THREE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE CASES.

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—

I need scarcely say how much honoured I feel in being asked to deliver to you the Address in Medicine, because to do so generally falls to someone more advanced than I in the profession; but in view of your extending to me the courtesy, the least I can do is to reduce to the briefest my apologies and explanations, and proceed at once to justify you, and myself. I have chosen a subject that is thoroughly well known, and I cannot hope to add anything material to it, yet the observation of a goodly number of cases must carry with it some knowledge that is usefully transmissible. Unfortunately for me, Dr. John H. McCollom, of Boston, overshadows us all in the matter of scarlet fever, and it is a species of impertinence to produce three hundred cases within a radius of a few hundred miles of his five thousand, but it is a kind of assumption that he will be the first to forgive.

These cases form the first series in the wards of the Alexandra Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Montreal, and are taken exactly as they come. They represent no special epidemic, although the winter of 1907-1908 is considered to have suffered a more than usual prevalence of the disease. I have heard it said that there is a regular recurrence curve of scarlet fever, and that 1908 is a "scarlet year," but I have not been able to find anything definite upon this supposition. Females were more numerous than males in the percentage of 54 to 46, and the ages at which patients were attacked fall exactly into the average order, viz., that the fourth year of life has the most cases. The numbers of cases rose

The Address in Medicine to the Maritime Medical Association, Halifax, July 2nd, 1908.