

For I am convinced that the adoption and carrying out of the provisions of a bill of this kind will do much to diminish the volume of sickness, pauperism, vice, and crime, that now stains the annals of our country, and restore to lives of usefulness and self-respect many of those poor unfortunates whom it is the design of such a measure to control and help.

Before closing my address, I wish to express to our visiting brethren my appreciation of the kindly feeling and interest which have actuated them in taking part in the deliberations of our National Association and to hope that their stay may be fruitful of pleasant reminiscences.

And now, Gentlemen, I must thank you for your kind reception of me as your President this year, and for the patient and courteous hearing you have given to my remarks, and trust that the suggestions I have ventured to offer may meet with your approval and receive your support.

ADDRESS IN MEDICINE

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, VANCOUVER, 1904.

BY

ROBERT E. MCKECHNIE, M.D.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—

In asking a member of the profession, residing in the far west, to deliver the address in medicine, I feel that a compliment has been paid, not so much to myself, as to the west. To demand that we, living so far away from the centres of learning, from the great teaching institutions of the east, should nevertheless be expected to keep ourselves abreast of the times and in touch with the latest discoveries, is surely expecting a great deal; and then to expect that one, living under such barren influences, should be able to give you an address equal to this occasion, containing some food for thought and pointing out the pathway of duty and practice, is to look still farther for a miraculous manifestation. But the genius of the west is ever equal to all occasions. It has grown accustomed to the knowledge that the best wheat in the world grows in our North West, that our forests can supply the hugest sticks of timber known to commerce, that our fisheries can supply the world with illimitable quantities of salmon, halibut, and other delicacies, always the best, the hugest, and the illimitable, ever the superlative. So it is not strange that a strong egoism has developed out here, sufficient even to accept this task, and hoping, but with misgivings, that its self-sufficiency may not suffer in the attempt. Personally I feel that a great honour has been conferred on me and I most sincerely thank the