

A PLEA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF CARCINOMA.*

By NICHOLAS SENN, M.D., CHICAGO, ILL.
Professor of Surgery in the University of Chicago.

"Sed oportet privati utilitatibus publicas, mortalibus aeternas
anteferre: multoque diligentius in aeri suo consulere, quam
facultatibus."

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Humanitarian Service.—From time immemorial the medical profession has been in search of ways and means to reduce the sum of human suffering in its efforts to prevent and treat disease.

The physicians of all times, more than any other class of men, have devoted a large part of their time, talents and energies to promote the happiness, welfare and usefulness of their fellow-beings without any expectation of a pecuniary gain for their unselfish, self-imposed and often arduous task.

The philanthropic spirit has always animated medical men and their organizations, large and small. A liberal part of the transactions of the medical societies throughout the entire civilized world is devoted to subjects which have a bearing on the prophylaxis of disease. The public will never realize the vast amount of work that has been done in this direction by the mass of the profession, inspired by men of the highest scientific attainments. The growing knowledge of the real cause and nature of disease, the outgrowth of original research and accurate scientific investigation by a host of earnest students the world over has already resulted in erasing from our nomenclature a number of formidable diseases and in limiting the spread of deadly epidemics.

Preventive Medicine.—The crowning glory of our profession in the future will be preventive medicine. The sphere of the general practitioner will become more and more circumscribed; that of the scientist will expand and keep step with the progress and advancements of preventive medicine. Rational preventive medicine had its origin contemporaneously with the foundation of the new science of bacteriology, and its further development and sphere of usefulness must necessarily depend on the progress and expansion of the latter. We may confidently look to the near future for more men like

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