

“reed shaken by the wind,” on their own responsibility. When they returned, they gave us graphic and interesting papers concerning what they had seen abroad. In the meantime some of the wonderful fluid had been procured here, and was made use of in the hospitals, but no such results as we had read of were ever seen, in fact the remedy did much more harm than good, and soon it ceased to be employed. The stage of disenchantment and even vituperation has now come, and the great name of Koch has gained no fresh laurels as yet from his discovery of tuberculin. Some of the more sanguine minds hope with Lauder Brunton that “Koch’s tuberculin may yet fulfil the hopes of its able and single-minded originator.” It is possible that, deprived of its dangerous elements, it may yet be of service in the treatment of tuberculosis. At any rate, a new line of research has been opened up, and discoveries of great importance may yet await the patient investigator of infective diseases and their germs.

Gentlemen, when I commenced this address I had no intention of saying so much, but, like all poor sermons, length is a distinguishing feature, and it is much harder to be terse than discursive. Before I close I should like to express my appreciation of the services of one to whom we are all indebted for the great success of last year’s work. I allude to our late secretary, Dr. McCarthy. Without him I should have been like a ship without a rudder. His foresight, discretion and diligence have made the position of President a comparatively easy one, and his published reports are a credit not only to himself but to the Society.

Gentlemen, again I thank you all for the kind manner you have borne with me, and I shall gladly retire into the back benches once more, from the obscurity of which, perhaps, it were wiser that I had never emerged.