

good feeling among the members of the profession than their guest.

Speaking to the guest of the evening, Dr. John S. King said:

"I am indeed happy at this eventful period in the life of Dr. Chas. O'Reilly, to be permitted to give expression to a few of the many thoughts evolving regarding him; and to call up some of the reminiscences of him who has been my earliest preceptor—my *Æsculapius*—my friend.

"The birth of this fair Dominion on the 1st day of July, 1867, was marked by much rejoicing, and the inauguration of Dr. O'Reilly as Medical Superintendent of the Hamilton Hospital. At the time I entered the Hospital, a couple of years later, the Medical Superintendent organized a clinical class, and a junior medical and surgical house staff. Both class and staff were composed that summer of myself. Dr. O'Reilly at once became my preceptor, and few, indeed, there be among preceptors as painstaking in imparting practical knowledge, not only in his clinical work, but in the detailed instruction as to the wound dressing, bandaging, making fracture splints, compounding medicines, and everything connected with hospital work. He was himself a genius at making new and original devices for all manner of purposes.

"His exemplification of treatment of obstinate cases was most original and effective, as may be illustrated by one case, if I may be permitted by the Doctor to speak of it. It was a case of persistent hysteria, which had for nearly two years baffled the skill of the older physicians. The woman remained constantly in bed, and vowed she was unable to use her limbs. One day he was seen running into her ward with a pail of water, crying, 'Fire! fire!' and, stripping down the sheets, told the woman the place was on fire and to escape for her life, at the same moment emptying the water over her prostrate form. The application was sudden; so was her exit from the bed, and she made good speed into the corridor. She was cured.

"Another circumstance, which was somewhat exceptional even at that early period of the Doctor's experience. I may mention as characteristic of the man, was that of the amputation of the foot and lower third of the leg without the use of an anæsthetic. The patient was himself a doctor, who objected to chloroform for personal reasons. This long antedated the Oslerized chloroform age limit. Preparations for the operation were effected by first filling a box with stone, to the lid of