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REFLEXES—THE INGOING IMPULSES AND THEIR PSYCHIC
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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—

I must begin with an explanation, if not an apology. Owing to the unfortunate illness of my colleague, Professor Wyatt Johnston, who had been regularly appointed to give this address, it became necessary to find a substitute. So, Dr. Burgess, who has done so much work of a kind of undoubted value, undertook that of a more questionable kind when he attempted to refill so important a position at the eleventh hour. He came to me, possibly because of the interest he knows me to take in psychiatry and kindred subjects. That was about one month ago, and as I was then under promise to prepare two papers to be read at the meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, which met on the 27th of last month, and as I had of necessity to examine at least one hundred students orally and by lengthy written papers on my return, I now wonder at my rashness in consenting to appear before you. But, as some evidence against downright lack of sanity, allow me to explain that Dr. Burgess came on a holiday, when, therefore, I was not under the influence of my usual mental tonus—when my loins were not girded up. Moreover, I had just been reading something from the Doctor's pen that was suffused with poetry, so being without the necessary protection of hard sense, he spoke as with enchanted words and the shafts of his argument did penetrate