

inconsiderate handling of the old associations and, if you like, prejudices of any member of the Society, we may soon be able now to centralize our activities, perhaps change our place of meeting, abandon what has sometimes been in past years a sort of armed truce, place ourselves more *en rapport* with the Medical Library, with the new home of the conjoint Medical Faculties, and all the stimulating and multifarious activities of a great educational centre. The harmony of the past can be now made even more complete, and our work of mutual instruction and entertainment will be, I am sure, more profitable and pleasurable than ever before.

I venture, with this introductory digression, to remind the Fellows of the restriction imposed upon our work and discussions here, by the name of the Society and its constitution, particularly Art. 2, which reads: "The object of this Society shall be reading clinical papers and discussions thereon, exhibition of patients when possible, and all matters pertaining to clinical work."

I should like, also, to remind ourselves that many branches of medical knowledge have become purely clinical which fifteen or twenty years ago could not have been admitted to a medical discussion at all. For instance, one can no longer discuss chorea or malaria without the admission of certain laboratory methods of diagnosis and etiology as providing explanation of symptoms or rationale for treatment. So that our discussions may fairly, I think, be allowed to range pretty widely.

I hope to make the presentation of Cases a more frequent feature of the programme. This should not be difficult, with so large a number of hospital patients available.

The balance, too, between Medicine and Surgery on the programmes may be, perhaps, held a little more true than has sometimes been the case in the past.

And finally, I need not remind you that your president and committee feel that their best efforts in providing good programmes will be useless without the hearty co-operation which we confidently expect from yourselves.

The selection of a subject upon which to address you has cost me much thought. On occasions like this, one of three courses is usual and proper. First, to seek to bring forward some new and useful contribution to the sum total of medical knowledge, based upon original investigation, observation and statistics. This I felt to be quite beyond my power. Second, to indulge in bare-faced compilation, and this method of scissors and paste, I felt to be too uncomplimentary to this Society. The third alternative, if one may use the term, seemed to be to select some purely general topic, and handle it on very wide lines, with such literary skill and success as one may, to make it as little tedious as possible to the hearers.