

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

REVIEW OF THE FORCES.

Presidential Address, Ontario Medical Association, Toronto, 1920.

BY DR. F. W. MARLOW.

THE fortieth annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association is now in progress. Time is moving on and with its passing the Association is gradually being moulded into an organization truly representative of the medical men and women of Ontario.

To the pioneers of forty years ago and there are but few of them remaining with us, let the credit be given for their commendable spirit and ambition in launching forth the effort to get the members of the profession together in annual convention so that they might have opportunities of keeping in touch with and discussing for their mutual interest and enlightenment, the various advances in medical science. Their conception of the value of attracting men together to propound, to listen and to discuss is the spirit which has prevailed throughout the forty years and which still exists. Their motives could not be classed as selfish as their whole theme was how to best fit themselves to combat disease. Be it said to the credit of those who have carried on meantime that the same theme has permeated their endeavours and so it is that to-day we meet again to check up and to sort over our armamentaria so that the serviceable may be burnished up for further use, the obsolete discarded, and the whole replenished with up-to-date equipment.

To-day there are but few counties remaining in the province of Ontario in which an organized medical society does not exist. County and district societies have their regular meetings during the course of each year and in many, though unfortunately not in all parts of the province a great deal of enthusiasm is evidenced by the members.

Closer relation of the local societies with the Ontario Medical Association, by affiliation, is tending to promote a still greater interest, not only in district and local affairs but in provincial as well. The present plan of organization with its ten counsellor districts and its ten counsellors constituting part of the Executive, renders it more easily possible for the Association to keep in touch with the status, demands and activities of the local societies.

Doctors of Medicine appear to recognize more fully the value of co-operation and it is most gratifying to find that the old idea of opposition in practice is being replaced by the spirit which regards the other doctor as a colleague.