

## PAST AND PRESENT

### ADDRESS IN SURGERY

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WHEN asked to deliver the address in surgery to the Canadian Medical Association, my first impulse was to refuse, for I had for some three years given up surgical practice and felt the task ought to be undertaken by some younger man in active work who was more *au courant* with the surgical problems of the day. However, I was overruled, and not wishing at this time of great patriotic endeavour to relegate the office to outsiders, I consented to do my best and address you to-day.

It has always been my opinion that our Canadian national societies should, at their annual meetings, take stock of the knowledge acquired in the special departments of science they represent, so that the papers read should be an index of the progress of that science the society is interested in. Now this applies to Medicine as well as to other departments of science and I contend that our meetings should not be made use of for strangers to display their knowledge and cleverness, and often to play to the gallery, but that we should rely on our own members for papers and contributions and so be an index of our own vitality. We are passing out of the colonial and dependent stage and are becoming one of the sister nations of the great empire of Great and Greater Britain.

In 1874-5, when I was in Vienna and filling up my papers for the *Politzci*, I wrote in "Dominion of Canada" as the country I hailed from, but so little was the country known at that time that my papers were returned with the query: "Was it not the Island of Candia I meant?" I said, "No, it was Canada," and it took