

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XXV.

SEPTEMBER, 1896.

No. 3.

Original Addresses.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION, MONTREAL, AUGUST 26TH, 1896.

BY

JAMES THORBURN, M.D., Toronto.

I desire in the first place, to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me in making me President of this great Association. I consider it the highest honour in the gift of the profession of the Dominion of Canada. When I think of the eminence of my predecessors, I have great apprehension of my ability to meet your expectations; but, gentlemen, relying on your kind assistance and loyal support, I will fulfil the duties of my office to the best of my skill.

During the past year many bright men have gone the way of all living. Medical science has lost her most valued son in Pasteur. Although many names are prominent in connection with the recent great advances that have been made in medicine,—that of Pasteur will always be pre-eminent. He may fairly be credited with having put the germ theory of disease beyond all dispute. Protective inoculation, apart from Jenner's work, was first understood and successfully applied by him. The surgery of the present day owes its success very largely to him. Lister was stimulated to carry out his early experiments upon suppuration and infection in consequence of following Pasteur's researches upon fermentation, including ammoniacal fermentation of urine in the bladder. More recent therapy owes much to him. His success in the handling of patients, who were presumably inoculated with rabies, is well known, and there can be little doubt that the serum-therapy of to-day comes indirectly from.