

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF SURGERY; ITS PROGRESS DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR THE TWENTIETH.

Address delivered at the afternoon services in Convocation Hall, Queen's College, March 24th.

SCIENTIFIC addresses have of late been largely reminiscent in character. At the close of one century and the opening of another it is natural that we should mark time, count our gains and losses, seek to determine our present position, and cast a glance at the road already traversed, and at the path which opens in front.

Has medicine, one of the oldest of the arts and one of the youngest of the sciences, made solid progress during the century; progress commensurate with the notable advances in physical science, in industrial development, and in imperial expansion which have rendered this epoch illustrious? Has our profession grown in scientific precision, in practical utility, in efficiency, and in repute? Has it developed new resources and lopped off those decayed or outworn?

No nation can be truly great if unmindful of the sanitary conditions of its citizens. Civilization and the arts of domestic life march hand in hand, and as is the one, so necessarily must be the other, so indissolubly are they interwoven and bound together.

To answer these questions one has only to place himself in the position of the practitioner of a hundred years ago. We might, for example, imagine a professor called upon in the year 1801 to give an address on the progress of medicine. He would probably congratulate his hearers on the progress of the science and art since the days of Harvey and Sydenham. He would refer in the most kindly terms to the life and work of John Hunter, and to the light thrown upon surgery and pathology by his powerful and penetrating intellect. He would recount the rise and progress of the great Edinburgh School of Medicine, and tell of Cullen, of the Munros and the Gregorys. He would