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A PLEA FOR PROGRESSIVE SURGERY.

Being the President's Annual Address to the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Association, Nov. 11, 1891.

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OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

My first duty upon this occasion is to express my grateful appreciation of the honor conferred by the Fellows of this Association in calling me to this responsible place. Following in the footsteps of my distinguished predecessors, I feel keenly my own unworthiness for this eminent position. My earnest desire to promote the interests of this Association and to forward the two great branches of our art fostered by this organization constitutes whatever claim I might lay to your generous consideration.

The fourth annual meeting of our Association confirms the wisdom of its founders as to the necessity for such an organization. At our second annual meeting our distinguished Fellow, Dr. Hunter McGuire, then our president, depicted in eloquent words the peculiar conditions and influences of our Southern civilization. Our gifted colleague described the pursuits and characteristics of our people; the conditions surrounding the labors of our professional brethren, and the peculiar necessities for local and special medical societies. After pointing out the influence of state and county societies in advancing the standard of the profession, he declared that there was a special need for foster-

ing this organization. The three volumes of Transactions given to the professional public, and this assembly of eminent and active practitioners of surgery and gynecology, attest the truth of those utterances.

Within fifteen years the entire practice of surgery has been revolutionized. New methods have been introduced and new regions invaded; comparatively recent teachings have become obsolete in practice, and modern treatises recast. The science and art of gynecology, which a few years since was limited to a small and narrow field, has grown into a great branch of medical science and practice. Formerly divided between midwifery and surgery, as a minor branch of one or both, gynecology has become an independent and essential department of the healing art. To promote the study of these two great and growing branches of medical science, to quicken research, and diffuse knowledge among the profession in the Southern States, is the special mission of this Association. Assembled in this historic capital of the Old Dominion, so intimately associated with the grand old colonial times, and with the later severe ordeals of our internecine troubles, we have reason for congratulation upon the success which has crowned our efforts to establish the first and only special society in the South.

It is not my purpose upon this occasion to attempt to recount the advances and triumphs of general surgery or gynecic surgery in recent years. These advances and their beneficent results are too familiar to this assembly to need