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MODERN PATHOLOGY.\*

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Medicine at the present moment is passing through its great age of renaissance. Never before in its whole history have such advances been made as are being recorded month after month in these last years of the nineteenth century, and with these great advances and their bearing it is that I wish to deal this afternoon. For they have been gained, not by chance speculation, but by purely scientific methods,—they are the results of experimental pathology—and, thanks to them, we are beginning to see our way out of that empiricism which has been the bane of our profession all these centuries, an empiricism which has made us the laughing stock of the wits and the butt of the cynics of every age.

Just in proportion as we gain an accurate series of observations so do we add to the science of medicine, so do we, in fact, establish a true Pathology. For pathology is the scientific study of disease. There still exist those who look upon the dead-house as the be-all and end-all of the pathologist, who regard the careful study of diseased tissues, of their gross and minute lesions, as forming his main function. Certainly this is a most important function, and one that, in English-speaking lands, needs yet further development. Here, in Montreal, much more advantage

\* Inaugural Address delivered in the William Molson Hall, January 3rd, 1893.