

of trust may not follow my efforts to discharge the traditional and customary duty of the official chair.

Though our city is not hoary with legends or traditions, nor our archives musty with the accumulated historical records of consecutive centuries (for many citizens who may jostle you upon our thoroughfares to-day were pioneers and helped to clear the virgin forest even where we now are gathered), yet New Westminster will ever remain and pass down in history as having been the first capital of British Columbia, and, though shorn of that glory, nature's legacy of picturesque and superior commercial location upon the gentle slope of Fraser's northern banks will ever remain with her, and at future gatherings of the medical association of the Sunset Province of our fair Dominion I hope the memories of all here assembled may revert in pleasant recollection to this first meeting in the Royal City.

As corroborative evidence of our city's claim of having been the capital, it is interesting to observe that the first act passed in British Columbia respecting the practice of medicine was passed here, and is entitled, "An Ordinance Respecting Practitioners of Medicine and Surgery." It is dated as having passed the Legislative Council upon April 1, 1867, and assented to in Her Majesty's name upon April 2, 1867, by Frederick Seymour, Governor, at New Westminster, B.C. The Act is a short one, and the preamble is not by any means the least important clause. It runs: "Whereas it is expedient that persons requiring medical aid should be enabled to distinguish qualified from unqualified persons, therefore be it enacted." This clause shows clearly that the idea in the minds of the early legislators of this province, when they passed our first medical act was that it was more for the protection of the public from incompetent practitioners than such a law was necessary, as is so often stated at the present day, to create the members of our profession into a closed corporation. I am indebted to one of our former presidents, Dr. R. E. Walker, of New Westminster, for this item of history, and if any persons feel sufficiently interested to look more carefully into the legislative history of the profession, I would refer them to his presidential address of August 29, 1902, in which this feature of our history is very elaborately recorded.

The Royal Columbian Hospital, founded in 1859, now located in our suburb (Sapperton) was the first hospital established upon the mainland of British Columbia, there having been a marine hospital at Victoria prior to 1859.

It may not be unprofitable to briefly review the history of the association, especially as the city in which we are now assembled was intimately associated with the conception and