

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting, Held at Toronto, August 21st, 22nd,
23rd, 24th, and 25th, 1906.*

SECTION OF ANATOMY.

THE TEACHING OF ANATOMY IN UNIVERSITIES AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

BY

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In our Section this year we have a wealth of important material to be considered. This being the case, it would obviously be unwise that your President should encroach unnecessarily upon time already too short. Still, within the limits wisely imposed by our authorities, and without entrenching too much upon the time set apart for our more direct work, this appears to me to be the proper time to draw your attention, as workers in the field of human anatomy, to a point of importance, which we may not neglect if we desire to keep human anatomy in its proper place as a living science, whilst at the same time we are careful not to lose sight of its practical importance as a technical subject in a medical curriculum.

Human anatomy appears to have been studied at first by men of an inquisitive turn of mind, who desired to know as much as possible of themselves and their fellows. They were men of the educated class of their time, and it is not improbable that they may have hoped that a knowledge of the structure and arrangements of the various parts of the body would be of service in an attempt to meet and avoid those infirmities and diseases which they knew as the precursors and possible causes of death, just as similar knowledge enabled them to preserve and improve other mechanisms with which they were acquainted. Whether this was so or not, the knowledge gradually acquired was utilized by those who undertook the treatment of injuries and diseases of the human frame, and gradually the study of the details of human anatomy passed at first into the hands of the priesthood, who provided for the bodies as well as the souls of their flocks, and afterwards into the hands of the members of the medical profession. This was the natural course of events, for it is clear that the man who desires to regulate, protect, improve, and repair any instrument must know thoroughly all its main features and as many of its minute details as

In the following pages we have gathered together abstracts of the addresses of the Presidents of the various Sections at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Toronto. They are drawn from the official reports in the Journal of the Association. [Editors.]