

**ADDRESS IN SURGERY—CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—
FRACTURES AND THEIR TREATMENT***

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It is a great privilege to be permitted to read an address on surgery at the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association. When your president, influenced largely, I think, by kindly feelings towards myself, invited me to read the address, in a moment of vanity I consented, and since then I have felt the responsibility more and more as the time of the meeting approached. I wish therefore to express my appreciation.

In the choice of a subject, I have been influenced largely by the fact that during the past few years, more especially since the introduction of radiography, the subject of fractures and their treatment is, perhaps, of more general interest to the members of this association, than many other subjects which might have been considered.

Time will not permit me to go into details as to the particular treatment of a particular fracture. My object is rather to consider the subject as a whole, and to make a brief review of the various methods in use, presenting a few of my own observations gathered from twenty-two years' experience as a surgeon and assistant surgeon to the Montreal General Hospital, which institution, from its situation in the centre of the largest city in our country, and within half a mile of the head of ocean navigation, has perhaps, the richest clinic in fractures in Canada.

It has been stated that in the midst of all the wonderful advances in medicine during the past thirty years, and more especially in the advances in the surgical treatment of diseases, our knowledge and treatment of fractures is much as it was in pre-Listerian days.

An exception is admitted in the treatment of compound fractures. The work of Sir William Macewan, in Scotland, Sir Arbuthnot Lane, in England, and J. B. Murphy, on this continent, during the past ten years, however, has drawn the attention of the profession to this subject, with the result that many radical changes have taken place, not only in our knowledge of bone regeneration and repair, but also in our treatment.

*Selected from the Canadian Medical Association Journal.