

science, and against—the present curse of the profession—the pharmaceutical chemists who prepare the dose and request you to administer it for their glorification and profit. We must take care lest we betray our trust by adopting a too scientific standard; and from the chemists and compounders, by sticking to the contents (as near as we can) of the pharmacopœia, and by writing an intelligent prescription from its contents.

Investigations, anatomical, pathological and sanitary, have been of very great interest; physiology and physiological chemistry have given to medical thought a more strict and scientific character than it ever had before. But the confession to be made is, that in proportion as it has become more scientific it has become less medical. And this should rightly remind us that neither the study of anatomy nor that of pathology is the chief end of medicine. Neither is the prevention of disease the chief end of State medicine. Drugs have been administered on the vaguest principles, and the administration, of course, has only yielded vague results, and the prevalent want of faith in therapeutical medicine is that it has been neglected by those who should have got definite results from the study of it. Never have inquiries and investigations been prosecuted before in the history of our art as in the last ten years, never such wealth of scientific appliances in every country, by men of different culture and thought.

Looking forward to the future of our art, it is marching forward under steady, intelligent, honest investigation, searching after the means by which disease may be lightened or cured—marching slowly, it may be, but built on a solid foundation of careful, patient, unwearied observation, always advancing, ever gaining truer conceptions of health and disease, and a deeper insight into their nature, building up a structure of knowledge with fuller, wider and more comprehensive views. It is in this way that real and permanent advances are to be made, and that our profession may hope to pursue an uninterrupted career of usefulness.

Once more let me say—although knowledge of the principles of medicine and surgery is essential to sound practice, it is not sufficient. You have to acquire the art—the clinical art—of applying these principles to the investigation and management of disease and injury. Professional knowl-

edge is the weapon with which you will combat disease; your successes depend not so much on the weapons with which you are armed, as upon the skill with which you use them. Professional knowledge is necessary. A man is good for nothing without it. But it is not everything. Something beyond this is required, gentlemen—skill to use it.

Gentlemen, the sand of my hour-glass as your President has nearly run out, but before my presidential existence terminates I must say a few words in farewell. Most sincerely I thank you all for the kindness and assistance I have met with in the performance of my official duties. Those duties have been most interesting, and now when I subside again into the ordinary member, I trust that I may still be able to promote the object for which our society was inaugurated.

Wishing you and the Clinical Society all possible prosperity, allow me, gentlemen, before I retire, to state I shall always consider the honour of being elected your first President as one of the most pleasant events of my life.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring President, on the motion of Dr. Chalot, seconded by Dr. Janson.

It was then moved and unanimously resolved, that the minutes of the meeting be sent to the *ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL* for publication.

### Correspondence.

*The Editors do not hold themselves in any way responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.*

### DR. McLAUGHLIN'S REPLY.

*To the Editor of* *ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

SIR, —In your résumé of the history of the real estate dealings of the Council, you have called special attention to my name in a manner calculated to lead some to believe that I was, when a member of the Council, a consenting party to the policy of constructing the buildings on Bay Street. In order to correct this erroneous impression on your part, and also on the part of your comrades in the Council, I crave your indulgence that I may present what I believe to be the views of the profession throughout this province.

During the twelve years I occupied a seat in the