

ADDRESS IN SURGERY.*

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The honor of being chosen to deliver the address in surgery at the meeting of this Association is one I had not expected. After looking over the names of the distinguished gentlemen who have filled this honorable position, I feel any words of mine quite inadequate to express my gratitude to you, and it is with mingled feelings of pleasure and anxiety that I attempt to speak of the advances which surgery has made during the last few years. Not having had the extensive clinical experience of many of the gentlemen who have addressed you in the last few years, I shall only attempt to draw your attention to some of the most important work which has been done in different countries.

In surgery especially, has the English speaking people contributed more than their share of good work, and America particularly, should be proud to be favored by the visits of distinguished surgeons from abroad.

Great advances have been made in the surgical treatment of diseases, yet in many instances our hopes have not been realized. Thus when the tetanus bacillus was isolated, and a serum prepared, it was thought a treatment had been found that would ward off the usual fatal termination of this disease. This has now been found to be erroneous, and, in fact, the use of antitetanic serum has almost been abandoned in the treatment of cases of tetanus. Fortunately, however, the serum is almost a certain preventative of the disease. Thus, in 1903, in the United States there were 406 cases of tetanus reported, following accidents received during the Fourth of July. In the present year only 73 cases were reported. This marked improvement is attributed to more careful treatment of the wounds, and the administration of the antitoxin. In a recent discussion of this disease before the Surgical Society of Paris, Berger stated that during the last seven years all patients, with one exception, entering his wards with wounds in which there was a possible infection with the tetanus bacillus, received a small dose of antitetanic serum. The one patient who had not received the serum was the only one that developed tetanus.

It is now the rule in many hospitals in America, to give the serum in all cases having wounds which could have become soiled by dirt, manure, or other foreign substances. The

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