

allies for liberty, are being crowned with success. History records against the medical profession no wars or persecutions, and on the present occasion it longs for the fulfilment of the words of Longfellow

“That half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts
Were given to raise the human mind from error.”

More than a passing reference should be made to the kindness of Mrs. Ogden in donating to the Academy the medical books of the late Dr. W. W. Ogden. The suggestion that this would be an appropriate disposition to make of his books was at once accepted and willingly acted upon. It is to be hoped that this may become a precedent that others will follow, and oftentimes we will be able to say with Henry Vaughan, “Their very memory is fair and bright.”

During the unsettled conditions arising out of the war, and the absence of so many of our Fellows, the expected progress has not been made with our biographical department, though it has not been entirely neglected. Some valuable material has been collected, and preparations have been made whereby much more shall be secured, and arranged in due time in useful form. For this purpose a sheet has been prepared on which the Fellows may furnish the requisite information about themselves. Filing volumes have been adopted and are now in use. As soon as this department becomes better known, it will rapidly grow in extent and importance.

A number of sets have either been completed or have had gaps in them filled up. On this aspect of our work it would be well to adopt the practice of posting up for the information of the Fellows all numbers of sets that may be lacking to complete these. In many instances this would enable the Fellows to supply the missing links in such publications as *Progressive Medicine*, *International Clinics*, *Guy's Hospital Reports*, etc., etc. Too much attention cannot be paid to the perfecting of those series that go far back into the development of medical practice. The historical side of our library should ever be kept to the front. But in all this there is much work to be done, and it may be that most of us fall short of what each could do. “Blessed is he who has found his work,” says Carlyle; “let him seek no other blessedness.” Man is a being of four dimensions length of expectations, breadth of sympathies, depth of convictions, and height of aspirations. For each of these noble endowments there is ample scope in the building up of our library. In the words of the eminent Max Müller, “No good work is ever lost; many labourers must be content to sow; others will come to reap the harvest.” Let all of us be sowers, and we need have no fears that the harvest of the reapers of the future will not be abundant.

The Library Committee, in submitting the report for the year, also