

The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

Vol. XXXV.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1910.

No. 6

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS*

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THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

It is supposed by some that the general practitioner will soon become extinct. Although that seemed possible or probable a few years ago in some cities, such as New York, Chicago, etc., it appears that the pendulum is swinging the other way, and the family physician is now considered a necessity in most homes. There is perhaps no member of an ordinary community who comes more prominently into view than the doctor. He must run the gauntlet of criticisms very varied in character. Sometimes these criticisms are harsh and unjust, but on the whole we have no cause to complain. One of the finest characters ever described was Dr. McClure. How many such there are we know not: but there are a few—perhaps many. We might name one—Gawn Shaw Cleland of Toronto, who “crossed the bar” last January. The *Toronto Globe*, in an obituary article, said respecting Cleland: “He was loved and respected by his patients and was looked upon throughout the community as another Dr. McClure.”

He it was or such as he that Luke Fildes had in view when he painted that great picture, “The Doctor,” nineteen years ago. Sir Mitchell Banks, of Liverpool, England, made the following reference to it in 1892: “Of the hundreds of medical men who have stood before that picture I am sure there was not one whose pulses it did not quicken with pleasurable pride, or who left it without thinking that it already had been, and again would be his privilege to fight against pain and suffering and death like his colleague on the canvas. Note where the scene of the picture is laid: not in some rich man’s mansion, but in a workingman’s cottage. With admirable skill

*Delivered before the Canadian Medical Association, Toronto, June 1-4, 1910.