

its destinies and believe that with absolute fairness to all real interests the wisest course can be found and followed.

The Reaper whose name is death has not been idle in the year that has passed since we last met. Your committee on Necrology will present the names of certain of our members who rest from their labors and whose memories we honor. Permit me to refer to two only of the number: Dr. John Coventry was President of this Association in 1899, and well and worthily did he perform the duties of his office. He died from the disease which cuts off, in the midst of their greatest usefulness, so large a number of physicians—from an acute pneumonia. Leslie M. Sweetnam, in the full tide of professional success and with an ever-widening circle of patients and of friends who appreciated his sterling worth, and who loved him for what he was as well as for what he did, fell a victim to blood poisoning received in operation,—I had almost said to a wound received in action.

In one of the songs which Homer chanted when the world was young, we hear Idomeneus crying to Nestor:

“Worth many a life is his
The skillful leech who knows with practiced hand
To extract the shaft and healing drugs apply.”

If this was true when men were wild and when human resources were few, how shall we stimate the value to the communities in which they practice, of wise and prudent physicians, honest to their own consciences and armed with all the aids which advancing science has placed in their hands. Looking further afield, we have to regret the death of a man who, with the possible exception of the elder Gross, did more for the development of surgical pathology, than any other surgeon in the new world. Christian Fenger was your guest three years ago, and those who met him only at that time will join with all who knew him more intimately in the belief that he has made a lasting impression upon surgical science. Recalling the fact that surgical pathology has progressed more rapidly than any other department of medicine—that, as has been truthfully stated, it has made more progress in the last thirty years than in the previous thirty centuries, we can appreciate the splendid work which this great investigator and teacher was able to crowd into thirty-five years of professional life. His work and the work of others like him will live. Their best knowledge will continue to be utilized for the benefit of mankind.