

her handmaid medicine. Knowing well I speak in the presence of men, older, wiser and better instructed than I am, I shall limit myself to a few subjects of general interest—subjects concerning which, somewhat favored circumstances enable me to speak with a moderate degree of confidence, *avec connaissance de cause*. And in doing this I shall go but little beyond, and in most instances keep within the period that has elapsed since the organization of this Society in Quebec, eight years ago.

Since that organization chiefly, the views regarding modification, and most important advances have been made in the treatment of inflammations generally, and of the inflammatory fevers consequent on traumatic injuries and surgical operations. A word or two will explain this position. If a man of health be rated at par—to use a commercial phrase—the maimed, the injured, should not, ought not to be considered as above that desirable condition, to be reduced to, or below it. Far otherwise is the treatment generally to be followed, and many surgeons now seek to raise rather than to depress, the already weakened vital powers, by nutritive food, tonics, and if need be, by stimulants, and in some cases by the transfusion of blood. The antiplogistic treatment of inflammation bids fair to be soon consigned to its last resting place, and I shall be happy, if, with my feeble voice, I am permitted to aid in singing its *requiem*. The early local employment, by the Prussians, in the recent Franco-German war, of warm water instead of cold, is a recognition of that principle, and of the necessity of avoiding any depressing agency. Experience taught them that in bruises, wounds, ulcers, fractures, &c., warmth was far more grateful to the sufferer, and patients did better under its early use.

Almost coeval with the existence of this Society, the means of arresting hæmorrhage attracted renewed attention from Sir James Simpson's effort to substitute acupressure for the ligature, which, since its introduction by Ambroise Paré, in the 16th century, held supreme sway. In the