

ington, of Clinton, Tye, of Chatham, Richardson, of Toronto, Rosebrugh, of Hamilton, and last, though not least, Henderson, of Kingston. I assure you, gentlemen, my nerve and heart failed me when I found that I was to follow such distinguished men; and I felt, after my election, that I was rash indeed in undertaking the responsibility which it was at once a duty and an honor to accept.

At our last meeting there were 219 members present out of a total of 568. This was a proof that the objects of the association commended themselves to the profession, and we may hope, as time goes on, to have on our roll the names of every registered practitioner of good standing in Ontario.

You will see by article 11 of our by-laws that the promoters of the association had six objects in view. Let us consider them briefly, and judge how far the founders' wishes have been realized.

Firstly, as to "The cultivation of the science of Medicine and Surgery." During his student days a young man finds his time fully occupied in preparing himself for his examinations. After graduating, he may decide to practice in a city where he has the advantages of libraries, public meetings, and debates, where he is brought into contact with his fellow-practitioners, to keep pace with whom he is obliged to read and study. But another, less fortunate, settles in some remote district, where perhaps opportunities rarely, if ever, present themselves of exchanging thoughts with his fellows. Possibly he may have carried off the highest prizes at examination. His ability may be rare, and, had an opportunity been afforded him, he might have become a factor in the growth of medical knowledge. The force of circumstances alone renders his energy sterile, and the promises of his future unfulfilled. We have to-day, gentlemen, some really brilliant men in Ontario who are not our members. We ask them to join us. Their attendance at our meetings will give them the opportunity of contributing their own ideas and of discussing those of others. They will be stimulated to the study that is necessary if we would keep up with the strides of knowledge, for the science of medicine and surgery can only be successfully pursued by constant and persistent daily application, and the man who

neglects this will live to find that he is left behind in the race. If we seek for proof that our yearly gathering has accomplished much for the progress of our science, we need but listen to the members who, while their College days are in the more or less distant past, discuss for our benefit the most recent discoveries and theories of medicine with that consciousness of mastery that can only come from observation, from reading, and from thought. The longer we are in practice the more clearly we realize that the class-room does not end our education. When we leave it we are but on the threshold of our practical life, of that life that must make the most careless man perceive, when he enters upon it, that it is more incumbent on him than on men in most other walks in life, to gather in the knowledge of past centuries, and more especially that of his own time.

As a natural sequence to these remarks, I may follow the good example of my predecessor in commending to your notice and appreciation the efforts of the gentlemen connected with the Ontario Medical Library Association. Although the undertaking is still in its infancy, it is already a credit to its promoters, and we should all contribute to its success by the gift of books and by becoming members. It is no small privilege to be able to borrow for purposes of reference the books that we may well hesitate to buy, from motives of price, or because of their only occasional utility. By working together in this matter, we might acquire a library, in time, equal to that of the Legal Society.

The second aim of our association is "The advancement of the character and honor of the Medical Profession." It is an honorable thing in itself, gentlemen, to belong to our profession. For my part, I cannot conceive a greater pleasure than that of saving a valuable life by a skillful stroke of the knife, or by the judicious administration of a properly selected drug. I can imagine no higher reward than the gratitude of husband and children, for whom you have snatched from death, by prompt and decisive action, the mother and the wife. The existence of our association is an added bond of union between us, and must tend to foster the *esprit de corps* that will, if anything can, keep the profession free from quackery. If I