

best means of promoting the holiest and dearest interests of our profession, and to lay their contributions, the accumulation of years of study and observation, upon a common altar for the common good.' To turn more especially to our honored friend. As for myself, I have spent many a pleasant half-hour in listening to his refreshing stories of the medical celebrities of Edinburgh. Their names had been dear to me. And you know how we all love to have some one talk to us of those whom he has seen and we have not seen, of those whose memories were ever dear to us through their writings, and which made us feel as if we knew them personally. I can recall some whose names were so dear to me through their writings, and who, when passing away, left such an impression on me, and caused such a thrill to pass over me, as if it had been a loved relative or a dear friend. I was going to say something about our friend being a bachelor, but I believe I shall refrain, suffice it to say that the well-known sympathies of Dr. Dickson are sufficient to exonerate him and all other bachelor members of our profession from what Mr. Herbert Spencer would have us believe to be a rule, namely, 'That old bachelors are commonly selfish.' And before reading you the address, to relieve many minds of a hollow belief, I shall say in the language of an eminent writer, 'That physicians are apt to be sceptics in religion is the vague belief of a careless world; it would be difficult for them as men of science to be superstitious; but one of the profession who faithfully and cheerfully does his duty, must have a belief as fixed and practical as that of any pastor, in a reward of duty beyond the grave.'

"I could not let the present opportunity pass without thus endeavoring to promote that good feeling and that social intercourse which our friend Dr. Dickson has so well exemplified in his every-day life; and I feel that I can assure him for us all that all the compliments he receives this evening are but the expression of a good feeling that has long existed towards him, and we all regret that while in the enjoyment of good health he has not been permitted to engage in the active duties of his profession."

The following address was then read:

To DR. JAMES R. DICKSON, L.R.C.S., *Edinburgh, Paris, Ontario.*

* DEAR SIR,—Your many friends have for some

time past wished to make known in a tangible way, their sympathy for you in your lingering confinement, and have thought the present occasion to be most opportune for expressing their sympathy and their appreciation of your worth as a professional man and a public benefactor. Your abilities as a physician and surgeon, your kind disposition and sympathetic nature, your self-sacrifice, and your liberality, have gained you the esteem of your fellow-citizens in all the walks of life. But more especially for the great interest you have manifested in the welfare and happiness of the homes of destitute ones, do your many friends wish you to accept at their hands a small memento of their gratitude. Feeling encouraged by your partial recovery, we are not without hope that the goodness of a kind Providence may yet restore you to the active duties of a professional life, and thereby impart happiness to the suffering sick and give relief to the agonies of body and mind.

Your professional brethren have missed you at the bedside of the afflicted in times of distress and anxiety. Your ripe experience, your freedom from bias and dogmatism, your intelligible statements on all subjects pertaining to the interests of those stricken down with accident or disease, and your unostentatious bearing, have ever been a source of comfort and edification to your professional associates. By many an occupant of the sick room, you have been missed. Many have been deprived of the benefits of your mature judgment, and of those personal qualities for which you have been so much admired, and which oftentimes are sufficient to inspire confidence and rally the sinking soul of many a distressed one. Gentle, sympathetic, and kind, you will long be remembered both by your brother practitioners and your numerous friends; and our prayer is that you may yet be spared many years to add to the laurels with which you have already been crowned. And now, Sir, we beg of you to accept of the accompanying purse, and this expression of our good wishes.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

W. BURT,

WM. CLARKE,

JOHN McMILLAN.

April 3rd, 1877.