

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXIX.

NOVEMBER, 1900.

No. 11.

Original Communications.

THE PHYSICIAN AND HYGIENE.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE MEDICAL
FACULTY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

BY

E. P. LACHAPPELLE, M.D.

Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec, President of the Provincial Board of Health, Professor of Hygiene in the Faculty of Medicine of Laval University.

Mr. Dean and Professors, Gentlemen Students :

The Medical Faculty of McGill, in extending to me the invitation of addressing you to-day, has conferred upon me, a great honour, for which I desire to tender my most cordial thanks; it was, no doubt, the intention also of this faculty to give Laval University, to which I belong, a token of friendship and esteem, and this, above all, calls for the expression of my gratitude. Consequently, I could not decline the kind invitation, though the lack of facility with which I express myself in English, strongly prompted me to do so. However, I prefer to sacrifice my reputation as a linguist for the pleasure of accepting this invitation, feeling confident from the outset, that I may rely upon your greatest indulgence. I trust that you will overlook any errors of language and take into consideration my good will only.

The profession, gentlemen, which you intend to embrace, is one of the most elevated. Composed of study, work and devotedness, the physician's career is not devoid of grandeur and nobleness, since his aim in the practice of his profession is both lofty and humane, the solacing of suffering humanity. His place of predilection is at the bedside of the sick; day after day, the wounded and the afflicted throng into his office; his best friends are the feeble and the forsaken.

In him, both science and kindness co-operate to enable him to dress