

Ontario Medical Journal.

R. B. ORR, M.B., - Managing Editor. | W. H. B. AIKINS, M.D., - Associate Editor.

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✉ All Business Communications should be addressed to DR. ORR, 147 Cowan Avenue, Toronto.

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[No. 1.

THE ADDRESS OF DR. WILLIAMS, RETIRING PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO.

Gentlemen of the Council,—It is my pleasing duty to welcome you to your labour for the ensuing year.

With you I deeply regret that one member, a representative of the Homeopathic branch of the profession, Dr. Oliphant, will not meet with us again. For him, trouble and strife in the medical profession are over. With his more intimate friends, we join our sorrows that in the morning of life—a life full of promise for future usefulness—his sun has set.

“From toil he wins his spirit's light,
From busy day the peaceful night;
Rich, from the very want of wealth,
In heaven's best treasures—peace and health.”

In his place we welcome back to the Council our former colleague, co-worker and esteemed friend, Dr. Vernon, of Hamilton.

The year that is now drawing to its close has not been without considerable anxiety to the medical profession. The legislation which you secured in 1891, and which you believed to be in the interests of the public and the profession, has been very largely misunderstood. Efforts have been made, not only to have that legislation repealed, but to have other changes made in the Medical Act, some of which would be of very great detriment to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, if

they did not entirely destroy its usefulness. (Hear, hear.)

It is to be regretted that there should be any members of the profession, who would think for a moment that the Council—the representative body of the profession—should have any interest to serve other than that of the public and the profession; but so long as we have representative institutions, we must expect to come under the same influences as other representative bodies. If, for instance, in a municipality we select twelve of the most estimable men, elect them as municipal councillors, before the first year is ended, they are incompetents and noodles; and if they unfortunately continue in power for three years or more, they need not be surprised to learn from the criticising public that they are murderers, or worse. Members of this Council must not hope to escape from a like fate.

We think that one reason why the actions of the Council are misunderstood, is because of a want of inter-communication between it and the profession. As you are aware, it is not possible to get any considerable number of the medical men together, for the purpose of allowing their representatives to address them on the questions likely to come before the Council. The public press can scarcely be expected to deal with these subjects to any great extent, because it caters to the entire public, and can not be expected to give great space to questions interesting only to some 2,100 medical men. We would think that the medical press would be placed in a somewhat different position; that their highest interests would be to afford such information as