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HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

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Read before the Medical Section of the Canadian Institute, Jan. 17, 1873.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—In an association of Medical men, it has occurred to me that it might be interesting to give a sketch—and the limits assigned to a single paper will only permit of a brief sketch—of the History of our Profession, its rise and progress the difficulties it has had to contend with, and the triumphs it has achieved.

“The ills that flesh is heir to” are almost co-existent with our race. As soon as the gates of Eden were closed behind the first rebellious pair, sorrow and suffering became the lot of man; and man’s ingenuity was taxed to mitigate the curse. The earliest attempts to relieve suffering, that we have any account of, were in the department of Surgery. By the application of leaves and ointments, and other medicated dressings, the Ancients, perhaps in pre-historic times, sought relief from suffering, and aided the healing process.

The practice of the healing Art, as a distinct Profession, carries us so far into the dim and misty regions of the past, that Esculapius,