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THE PROFESSION.*

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GENTLEMEN,—A response to the noble sentiment "The Profession" is a source of pride and pleasure. At no period in the history of the profession, was there such unmistakable evidence of progress and advancement all along the line of scientific research, "Small talk may be said to be part of the social equipment of a successful doctor," but, on the present occasion, I will advert to a few of the leading problems of scientific thought within the past few months. The Wellcome Research Laboratory at Khartoum, established at the Gordon Memorial College, the result of the able advice and assistance of Lord Kitchener, is a great advance in the Far East towards promoting the study of technical education, bacteriology and physiology, all leading to a more comprehensive knowledge of tropical diseases, in fact infectious diseases, of man and beast, peculiar to the Soudan. This is certainly a broad and comprehensive scheme of work, which will be productive of great service to the State. Dr. Balfour, of Edinburgh, is in charge, and already research work has commenced in the line of malaria, and the anopheles in which Dr. Ross established a world wide reputation.

It is most important that Egypt and the Nile should thus become the cradle of science, and advanced civilization which will, in time, add greatly to the work now in hand, by the schools of tropical medicine. The Medical Department of the St. Louis Exposition has brought to light exceedingly interesting and instructive data by master minds in the profession. The value of the Physiological Principle in the study of Neurology by Dr. Putnam, of Boston, is an exceedingly able and comprehensive paper. The Anatomical Principle, in the study of diseases, is quite as evident for the department of neural pathology, as for any other. The signs of readjustment of disease constitute about all we can learn in the study of disease. Neither disease nor health is a definite condition, in fact, both are movements towards some relatively enduring equilibrium. The biographical principle, as applicable to the problem of disease, is no longer set aside by the conservative physician. Doubtless, the able contributions made by physiologists, psychologists and biologists have thrown much light upon the clinical problems of compensation and adaptation. According to Putnam in no department of pathology is it so difficult to arrive at satisfactory conclusions, by the aid of the anatomical method alone, as in the

*Reply to the toast of "The Profession," at the banquet of the Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society, Russell House, Ottawa, January 5, 1905.