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THE ETHICAL VALUE OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have thought it worth while to attempt to present a phase of preventive medicine which, though playing an important part in our social welfare, is often not consciously realized by us. We are so occupied with the practical concerns of our intense, everyday life, and so often fail to recognize those influences which direct and govern our acts, that in a certain sense we are automata, dependent upon our sensations and impulses.

Now, none who realizes man as a highly organized member of the animal kingdom can fail to see that, as Carlyle remarks of the peptic countryman who did not know he had a stomach, the very perfection of health is, where the several elements of life are so harmoniously adjusted that, like a perfect machine, "life, from its mysterious fountains flows out as in celestial music and diapason, while it is only discord that loudly proclaims itself." Hence it is apparent that, if man were but the perfect animal, his life, in harmony with its environment, would begin, develop, and perform its destined purpose and functions, and as gradually and quietly proceed to its euthanasia. But he who gives even the most superficial thought to the problem of human life, and especially to that of modern civilized life, must recognize that the very conditions of human progress which have made society so complex, indeed so artificial, compared to that of man in a primitive state, have created problems which demand their solution, whether we attempt them or not; and it will be he who, realizing this, and