

has been done by her children. But there is one subject to which in common fairness you will allow me to refer.

About two years ago certain changes in the blood taking rise in affections of the intestines, which had till then, only been described by three workers in the Netherlands, were found by Carstairs Douglas and myself, to be not merely due to the presence of a bacillus in the bowel, whence toxins were absorbed into the blood, but were found to be produced by the actual entrance of the microbe into the blood, where it multiplied, and poisoned the very springs of being. We felt a little glow of pleasure in having, as we thought, added a new chapter to the life history of bacteria—one which held out, moreover, the promise of practical usefulness: our results, however, had been, unknown to us, fore-stalled by other observers. About a year before our work was done identical results had been obtained in the wards of the Montreal General Hospital by Blackader with the assistance of Gillies and Duval. In a group of symptoms similar to those which engaged our attention they discovered the bacillus coli in the blood. It is a bounden duty, as well as a sincere pleasure to make it quite clear that this discovery belongs to the banks of the St. Lawrence and not to the shores of the Forth. The reason of our ignorance of the Montreal results lay in the fact that those interesting observations were not placed on record until last year, and we had in consequence no means of learning the valuable facts before we published our own later investigations. In the light of what we know it is a great satisfaction to be able to award the palm to those who deserve it. Their researches form a fitting termination to the careful investigations carried out, in this University also, by Charlton, working under the supervision of Adami.

The comparison of the past with the present affords us the best means of guiding future advances. From the failures no less than the successes of ourselves, as well as of those who have gone before us, we are enabled to discern the most fruitful paths of inquiry, and are led to shun the pitfalls which have hindered effort in the past. In other words, our footsteps in the present require to be guided by the light of the past, so that the future may bring with it fruits meet for progress.

In looking about for some particular subject which might usefully occupy our attention to-day, it has seemed to me advisable to take some matter with which my own work has rendered me specially conversant. That now chosen is a subject pregnant with interest, showing how the grey dawn which we owe to the keen insight of the fathers of modern medicine has brightened into the morning light, and how both sides of the world have been engaged upon it, every civilized country in a spirit of generous rivalry doing something to aid the efforts to reach the noon-