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## Original Communications.

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### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BEFORE THE AMERICAN DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AT THE  
MEETING IN CHICAGO, JUNE, 1901.

BY

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It is with considerable diffidence that I, who am not a pure dermatologist, address so eminent a body of specialists as that now before me. I have felt greatly the honour you have done me in electing me President of this Association, and am sure that after the distinguished men who have preceded me, my occupancy of the chair will be a very inglorious one. However, I shall do my best, and trust that the Chicago Meeting will not be one of the least instructive and interesting, for the Local Committee have worked with a will and have accomplished much.

I have thought this a very suitable occasion (the first meeting in the 20th century) on which to look back and estimate the advances made in dermatology during the century which has lately been completed, and also to try and understand how much knowledge the dermatologists possessed a hundred years or more ago regarding the nature and causes of skin diseases.

We might say that the specialty of dermatology has been created during the past fifty years, and that no department of medicine has made greater strides forward than dermatology. Men interested in this specialty were the pioneers who first entered the then unknown sea of bacteriology, for to them is to be credited the honour and glory of first discovering the parasitic origin of many diseases. To Schönlein belongs the credit of first exploring these regions and opening up the whole field of cutaneous mycology, for he in 1839 discovered the parasitic fungus of Favus. In 1843 Gruby of Paris discovered the