

The Maritime Medical News,

A JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS.

VOL. I.

NOVEMBER, 1888.

No. 1.

Original Communications.

ADDRESS BEFORE THE NEW BRUNSWICK MEDICAL SOCIETY BY THE PRESIDENT,

DR. P. R. INCHES,

At the Annual Meeting held at St. John, N. B.

GENTLEMEN:—When at our last meeting you elected me President of the Society, I felt that you had overlooked many who are far better qualified to fill the position than myself, and yet though I doubt the wisdom of your choice, I cannot refrain from an acknowledgement of such a mark of your confidence, and I beg to thank you most heartily for according it to me.

At the same time I must ask your indulgence to one not accustomed to preside over a meeting such as this, as are some of my friends whom I see here today, and hope that you will overlook faults which one more used to such a situation would not commit.

But some of you may remember that I had the duty last year of presiding here in the place of one who has since passed away.

Our lately lamented president, Dr. George A. Hamilton, was then suffering from illness which as you well know, resulted fatally not very long after our meeting, and it is fitting that I should speak of him here; for though many of you could pay a more eloquent tribute to his memory than I, there is none who could do it with more sincere heartfelt regret and true sorrow for a warm personal friend as well as professional brother. Thoroughly well educated at more than one of the leading schools of the world, possessed of sound judgment and a strong desire to succeed in his profession, he soon obtained the confidence of all those whom he met, giving him a high position in the esteem and regard of those of his own calling. We all learned to respect his opinion, which was never given without being well considered, supported by good reasoning, and in an unassuming and courteous manner.

As a surgeon he deservedly ranked high, and he exhibited ingenuity, unsparing attention and care to secure a good result. One characteristic he had; he was absolutely free from all undignified means to secure notoriety and draw attention to himself. Passing away at a time of life when he was in the very maturity of his faculties and powers, his loss is indeed to be regretted and mourned for by all those who had learned to depend upon him as a kind, thoughtful and discrete physician, as well as by those who knew

him so well, who enjoyed his companionship so much, and who miss his gentle presence and kindly humour.

It is fitting also that I should speak of the loss more recently of another of our brethren, one who was with us last year in our meeting, who was an active member in this society from its formation, and its second president, Dr. S. Z. Earle. His industry, capacity for work, and a certain quickness of perception, combined with great sociability, good temper and humour, enabled him to reach as high a position in this city as one can reach; although he might reasonably have expected to do active service for years to come. We had elected him once, and again to be a member of the medical council of the province, and he had served in many public positions both professionally and otherwise, being the chief magistrate of the city for two terms, coroner for twenty years, and chairman of the Board of Health.

No more warm-hearted physician and generous friend ever existed than he, which was attested by the numerous manifestations of sorrow exhibited, and we must deplore the comparatively quick breakdown and death of one so well known and trusted by the whole community and throughout the Province.

It has fallen to my lot, gentlemen, to have to speak of the loss of still another of our friends, one whom we all knew personally, and looked up to, who was with us last year and was to a great degree the life of the meeting.

Since my boyhood I knew Dr. Botsford, and can say of him what hundreds of others know, that he was a true friend and counsellor, always willing to do a good turn and putting one under an obligation to him, without appearing to know it. To his high position in Canada as a physician, philanthropist and public man, it is only necessary for me to allude. By his frequent and worthy representation of the Province at the meetings of the Canadian Medical Association, and President, for a term, of that body, he was well known to the profession of the Dominion.

It was only recently, however, that he interested himself in this Society, but his active participation last year was very welcome. It only makes his absence now more acutely felt. I cannot describe my notion of his character better than by quoting the words of a writer in drawing the picture of his friend. "There was a depth of tenderness in his nature, as well as of impetuous indignation; the one drawn out, and the other controlled by his Christian faith, made him at once a philanthropist and a reformer, and both in the highest department of human interest. The union of these ardent elements and of a highly devotional temperament, with the patience of the