

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.*

BY A. T. MCNAMARA.

Worthy Guests, Members of the Faculty, and Fellow-Students :

IN welcoming you to this the tenth annual banquet of the Medical Faculty of Toronto University I have a most pleasant duty to perform. Our annual banquet is one of the events of the collegiate year, second only in importance to the examination, but far exceeding that in the pleasures of both anticipation and realization. After partaking of the excellent repast just stored away, we are in the best of condition to enjoy that "feast of reason and flow of soul" which we know from experience at former dinners is always forthcoming from our guests, our faculty, and our students. The length of the toast list is sometimes considered a drawback, but it is all good ; therefore we trust that all who possibly can will remain throughout the whole evening. If you have a latch-key, you are quite safe. However, those who must go early we shall reluctantly excuse. They will miss a good deal ; for, figuratively speaking, we keep some good wine for the close of the feast. Some of the best speeches come at the end.

Since our last banquet a sad event has happened, by which the students of this faculty, as well as the medical profession at large, have sustained a serious loss in the death of the late lamented Dr. McFarlane. Speaking for the students, I may say that he was a man held in the highest esteem by the students of this Faculty, and we deeply deplore that his useful life was cut short by such an apparently trivial accident. His death is an example of the fatal risks run by a medical man in the practice of his profession. Who can say that the "days of heroes and martyrs are past," that "the former days were better than these"? The doctor who, from love for humanity and for his profession, goes about in the unostentatious discharge of his duties, exposing himself wittingly to the contagion of the most loathsome and fatal diseases, is a hero in the highest sense of the term, and if in trying to alleviate the sufferings of others his own life be forfeited his name is worthy of a place on the roll of martyrs.

"The drying up a single tear has more
Of honest fame than shedding seas of gore."

* Delivered at the tenth annual banquet of the students of the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto, December 2, 1896.