

Society since its organization, and which has made the meetings so valuable to us all.

It is not my intention to occupy much of your time this evening with any introductory remarks. Not that the present is an inopportune time, nor that a Clinical Society is an unsuitable place to discuss many matters of importance to the profession of our country—matters which the rapid evolution of events will force upon our consideration in the near future, and in the solution of which a society of the standing and influence of this must play a considerable part.

The epoch-making nature of the events which have been taking place around us since the organization of the Clinical Society in 1893 must have occurred to all of us, not in the medical profession alone, but in every line of intellectual, industrial, commercial and political activity in our country. After long years of waiting and hope deferred we are privileged to live at the beginning of the century which by common opinion belongs to Canada,—an era which is to witness the transformation of an obscure colony into one of the great nations of the world. Our illimitable natural resources and opportunities are attracting attention from all quarters of the globe. Ever alert, financial, commercial and industrial interests have quickly grasped the situation, so that on every side we see an extension of enterprise, a broadening of foundations and a perfecting of organization to meet rapidly growing requirements, and to take advantage of the golden opportunities which the future has in store.

It therefore appears a fitting time to glance at our own profession,—its past history, present condition and future prospects. As an index to our hopes it is instructive to recall the transformation which a century has produced in the country which is so frequently compared to our own. At the beginning of the last century the United States had a population of about 4,000,000. The first medical school in that country, now the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, had been established only thirty-five years; the Medical Department of King's College, N.Y., now Columbia, thirty-three years; Harvard seventeen years, and the Medico-Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland eleven years,—all struggling institutions, whose influence at that time had produced no effect on the medical world at large. In the whole country there were but two general hospitals, one medical journal (*The Medical Repository*, New York, 1797), and the only medical libraries were one each in connection with the hospitals of New York and Philadelphia. For the education of