

remarks with the reading of an address, I felt my inability to do honor to the profession to which I belong, and to speak in adequate terms of one of its oldest and most esteemed members. However short therefore my remarks may fall of what such an address as is expected of me by your committee to-night should be, and of what our esteemed friend too well deserves, you may rest assured the fault is all my own, and that too great a burden has been heaped on too small shoulders. It is only my love for the profession of my calling that has induced me to present myself before you to-night, and I feel that the whole profession looks upon the honor conferred by such gatherings as this upon one of its members, as an honor to itself as well as a most fitting reward to the person upon whom it is conferred. These gatherings, aside from their real purpose, generate a more kindly feeling, not only between members of this profession, but also between its members and the great world outside of us. To cherish this good feeling, and prove ourselves worthy of it, is the tendency of the times, and we one and all—to make a general statement—are struggling hard to root out all seditions from a profession which is fast pushing its work for the benefit of the whole human race. The old saying that “doctor’s disagree,” I hope it will be needless to tell you, is no longer a maxim, and that it is fast passing away into oblivion. We were once wont to hear little else. A pleasant change has taken place. Now we hear that all well-informed men agree. We have the same anatomy, the same physiology, the same chemistry, the same botany, and so on, throughout the whole domain of physic, and, I believe, to all educated members of the profession their subjects do not present greater difference than do the different walks of people. We all use the same material to arrive at the same goal, and although we differ as much as several people do in walking, and although we may have different gaits, still we have learned to walk so well that it is very easy for us to walk or keep step together. Many of the disagreements of old, were due greatly to the difference in the amount of education, and personal consideration and false aggrandizement among the lesser informed which naturally flowed from it. But now as the regular profession is becoming more uniformly educated, and more sensitive of professional dignity and honor, we do not

meet with the unpleasantnesses that were so rife in years gone by; and all now unite for the welfare of suffering humanity—which is their common aim—to do good that good may flow from it. It is well, however, in the extension of knowledge that we should oftentimes take sides. It is pleasant to indulge in a friendly warfare. And it is pleasant to know too, that it is quite possible for medical men, and we should hope for all others, to disagree and yet not despise each other; nay, indeed, to disagree and yet admire each other. The fear of ridicule ought never to prevent any one from owning himself in the wrong. I do not believe in the man who never made a mistake, and there is no cause for reflection and no dishonor to own that what we once thought was right, further observation and experiment has proved to be wrong. These differences, too, disappear as the non-medical world becomes more acquainted with our professional lore, or, at least, become so far pregnant with the natural sciences and cognate subjects, that they will be brought into sympathy with the labors of the physician. When this sympathy is more generally developed, the superstitious antagonism which every now and then formed a bulwark here and there to be broken down, will no longer retard the work which has for its aim the alleviation of the sufferings of the people. Not only is medicine coping against local sedition and strifes—expending not a little of its powers to bring individuals both inside and outside of the profession more and more into harmony with each other—but it also stands aloof from national contentions and political strifes. We may go to war about religion—I mean actual hostile warfare—we may war about creeds, and about politics, but I hope we will never hear of cruel war caused by the disturbances of the medicine man. Medicine has a different function to perform. It seeks the privilege to use its remedies—its soothing syrups (I do not mean Mrs. Winslow’s) to lessen the miseries of all people, the poor as well as the rich, foes as well as our friends.

“The sympathies of medicine are world-wide. No better evidence of this could be given you than the meeting of the International Medical Congress, held in the city of Philadelphia, in September last, ‘when representative men from nearly every country in the world assembled to interchange cordial salutations, to deliberate upon the