

strengthening our hands and of giving greater importance to these gatherings. The benefit to us all of these meetings must be considerable. Men holding different opinions and of varying mental capacity meeting together and becoming familiar with each other's views and observations on various topics, must be of special benefit. It will awaken a spirit of emulation and a desire for a more careful record of facts, and I trust a willingness to give for publication in some of the medical periodicals of our country any new facts that may have been observed. But it is not alone new facts which are worthy of record; careful reports of cases, medical or surgical, must be of use. They add to the store which may be already full almost to repletion, still though a repetition of an oft told tale, attention will be directed to the subject, and the writer will feel that by publishing his observations he is advancing the best interests of his profession. We are, each one of us, bound to impart our knowledge to our fellow practitioner if we believe that it will be of service in relieving human suffering. In this lies the great difference between the charlatan and the honest physician or surgeon.

We have, each one of us, received a sacred trust, which has to be distributed for the relief of suffering humanity. These meetings are of use in bringing together comparative strangers, in forming firm and lasting friendships, so that, as a band of brothers, we engage in work which may be of benefit to the entire human family. This may, at first sight, seem a startling thought, but of its truthfulness there can be no doubt when we consider the cosmopolitan nature of our calling. As physicians and surgeons we are in verity citizens of the world, owing allegiance solely to our Creator.

Nothing can tend more to the diffusion of knowledge than the coming together of men of cultured minds, for the purposes of discussion and consultation on subjects forming a part of those sciences to which they have devoted their lives.

The programme before us is various; the subjects will have to be discussed in the order of our work, yet I may remark that a wider field will be indulged in when, outside these meetings, man