

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE WAR.—THE CANCER PROBLEM.*

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AT a time like the present when such momentous events are happening day by day on the continent of Europe, and the destinies of the nations of the world are trembling in the balance, most of us find it extremely difficult to concentrate our minds on any subject which is not directly or indirectly connected with the war. This is not to be wondered at when we consider that it is by far the most terrible conflict recorded in history, the result of which will influence the future course of events throughout the whole of the civilized world. The state of things in Europe has been recently very vividly brought home to us in Canada, owing to the fact that so many of us have already lost those near and dear to us on the battlefield or in that great tragedy of the sea, the sinking of the "Lusitainia," but we rejoice to know that our soldiers have worthily upheld the traditions of our race, and that this country has reason to be proud of her sons.

In no previous war has the medical profession, not only of the British Islands, but also of the overseas Dominions, played such an important part, and there was everywhere a prompt response to the demand of the army for civilian surgeons to supplement the work of those belonging to the service. Many of the senior students in the various medical schools also volunteered for employment as dressers.

As you all know the response from those of our profession in Toronto has been most gratifying. The Army Medical Service of the First Contingent took many of the Fellows, and with the subsequent Contingents, Clearing Hospital and University of Toronto Base Hospital, there has been an increasing depletion of our ranks. Sixty-one Fellows of the Academy of Medicine are now on active service. The medical student body of Toronto University has not been behind in their response to the call. Of the undergraduates in medicine, six officers and eighty-eight men have gone, while there are 252 men serving from the graduate body of the Faculty of Medicine.

You will remember that very soon after the beginning of the war the Fellows of the Academy of Medicine, pledged themselves as a patriotic duty to undertake without charge the professional care of the needy dependents of any men serving with the allied armies during the war.

* President's Address: Academy of Medicine, Toronto, 5th October, 1915.