

the advancement of any part of the community, and particularly of its intellectual class, does not influence and affect beneficially the whole social body, and in ever widening circles permeate the life of the nation.

Our distinguished premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, declared many years ago that Ottawa should become the intellectual centre of the Dominion; and nothing I take it, would sooner bring about that result than the welding together of the material we already have here into one vital whole by giving it a headquarters and a home—I insist upon a home, for personal contact and intercourse are essential conditions of intellectual life and progress.

We want something more than an annual course of lectures, however instructive and interesting; we want something more than mere books. We want the smouldering intellectual fires to be fanned into flame. We want the opportunity for enlarged and fruitful activity. Just as the crude gem receives new value by rubbing against matter of its own substance, so the faculties of man are aroused, brought forth and polished by rubbing against those of others.

The transactions of the Society which were founded some years ago and of which three numbers have been issued, should and must, now that our activities will be devoted more and more to their true purpose be issued regularly. The value of the transactions is two-fold: in the first place, as a medium for putting in a permanent form the work of members who are contributing to the increase of knowledge; and in the second place, as a means of offering a *quid pro quo* for the similar publications of other societies the world over. The