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### ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Delivered before the Canada Medical Association, Hamilton, Ont., September 1878.

BY JOSEPH WORKMAN, M.D., PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN:—Not one of you who had the pleasure of listening to the eloquent, elaborate, and as I might almost say, exhaustive address of my richly gifted predecessor, delivered at our last annual meeting at Montreal, can think that I act imprudently in advertising you, that on the present occasion I have neither the intention nor the desire, and certainly not the hope, of offering to your consideration, anything that might compete with that lucid and very instructive production, of which I can for myself, and I think also for my co-auditors, say, in the words of Horace, "Hæc placuit semel, hæc decies repetita placebit."

Had I, when listening to Dr. Hingston's address, entertained the apprehension, that the Nominating Committee would submit my name, in succession to your presidency, I very much doubt if I would not have found it unavoidable, suddenly to fall into a state of serious ill health, altogether incompatible with the adequate discharge of the duties of the office—not assuredly that I undervalue the honour of the position, nor that I am not profoundly sensible of the kind feeling which actuated my associates in awarding me the honourable distinction. Could I, however, believe that I might ascribe their selection to some more consoling consideration, than modest respect to advanced age, I might not now assume this chair, with that timidity which a strong conviction of my defective comparative qualifications renders inevitable. Let me therefore trust that you will interpret kindly the few observations which I now venture to submit.

Before touching on any matter of practical con-

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cern, I cannot resist the sorrowful impulse of offering a tribute of well-merited honour to one whose name must long be held in warm remembrance, not only by every member of this association, but by the entire community. Since our last meeting it has pleased the Supreme Ruler of Life, to remove from this sphere of existence, one of our most esteemed and most richly gifted brethren. Dr. Edward Mulberry Hodder, who so ably and acceptably filled your Presidential chair two years ago, has been taken from us, less ripe in years than in professional eminence. To those among you who had the privilege of acquaintance with his practical medical and surgical competency, no word of eulogy from me is called for. His death has left a blank in our Ontario ranks, which cannot soon be adequately filled; and I am well aware that throughout the entire range of his large clientele, a feeling of despondent orphanage has prevailed, which time seems rather to intensify, than to have mitigated. It did not, for obvious reasons, fall to my lot to have much professional intercourse with Dr. Hodder; but of his amiable and manly social qualities, I can speak most unhesitatingly; and this I can say: that a warmer friend, or a more generous and frank opponent, (I say not *enemy*, for he was above enmity,) I have never known, and I have in my time stood towards him in both positions. His friendship was no slipshod, crafty, poison-hiding utilization of his fellow-men, but the irrepressible impulse of an honest and honourable heart; and as to his antagonism, it was as open and earnest as was his jocund rosy face. All his blows were struck straight-out from the shoulder, and *after* the conflict he was as ready to forget offence, as *in* it he was prompt to resent. To say that he was faultless, would be but to libel humanity, for lifeless are the faultless; but let us as in the words of the sweet poet of my native land, guard thus his memory:

"When cold in the earth lies the friend thou hast loved,  
Be his faults and his follies forgot by thee then;  
Or if from their slumbers the veil be removed;  
Weep o'er them in silence, and close it again."

It is perhaps matter of slight regret that I am unable to report any late legislative action in medical affairs within this province; for considering the amount of tinkering, pedantic quibbling, and meaningless intermeddling, which every measure relating to medicine, however skilfully pre-