

moment there were few people who were aware that he had ever studied it; but, as he spoke of it, it seemed as if it had been the one great study of his life. You can hear him now, as he says:

“Is there in all the range of natural history a more marvelous group of facts than may here be studied? If you would like to work out a problem in evolution, find how it has come to be a part of the ordinary economy of nature that a gall insect compels some part of a plant to grow in a manner which, while injurious to the plant, becomes useful to one insect not yet born and to another who will, in due time, invade the gall and kill and feed upon its occupant, and then may itself be invaded and eaten by a third.” (Memoirs and Letters, 1901, p. 304.)

Such have been the men and of such a kind have been the subjects that have occupied the attention of large audiences at our annual meetings. And although I cannot promise you that the meeting of 1910 will bring forth any great discovery in medicine or change the whole face of surgery, I can confidently promise that the scientific part of the meeting, with its 21 sections, each presided over by a distinguished person, and that the Addresses in Medicine and Surgery will be worthy of so great an occasion..

II. PUBLIC MEASURES.

From its very foundation the Association showed great interest in matters in which the public or the State and the profession were involved. In the first half-dozen years it had appointed committees to consider vaccination, the condition of parochial registers, Poor-law medical relief, medical relief of persons who are poor but not paupers, the suppression of quackery, the sale of arsenic, and other matters, and there was no reason to doubt the existence of that “zeal and alacrity” on the part of the members which had been recommended by Dr. Hastings in his first address at Worcester. They seemed full of energy and enthusiasm. There can be no question that the Association did influence legislation on many of these matters in which the interests of the public and of the profession are involved. But I thought I should like to be able to tell you tonight the history of some one instance, at least, in which the influence of the Association was paramount, and was acknow-