

ADDRESS ON OPENING OF MEDICAL SESSION, TORONTO UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 3RD, 1904.

BY J. ALGERNON TEMPLE, M.D., TORONTO.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must acknowledge with deep feeling the honor which my confreres have conferred on me in selecting me to deliver the opening address to you this session.

To-day we enter upon the second session of the combined schools of medicine, and if the past session be an earnest of the success which we are to meet with in the future, we have reason for congratulations.

We are this year continuing the work for which the foundation was really laid last session, the work made possible by the amalgamation of the medical colleges, the construction of this building, and the equipment of laboratories contained therein, presenting a combination sufficient in efficiency and equipment to guarantee a medical education for the country which will bring it into the foremost rank of the world.

In no department of knowledge has the separation of thought from the tangled mesh of scholasticism been followed by more or greater benefits to science and humanity than in medicine. Since reason displaced authority, and demonstration superseded unverified hypothesis, medicine has gradually worked its way into the front rank among so-called natural sciences. Thanks to the methods of experimentation, medicine, as an art and a science, has made more advance in the last two centuries and a half than it had made in the previous eighteen.

If this work is to continue and grow it can only do so by the distribution of that knowledge regarding medicine, which, when thoroughly comprehended, will appeal to government and people alike, and compel that support which even no higher motive than self-preservation prompts. Over and over again it has been demonstrated that the increase of medical knowledge is an asset of value to the community in which it has occurred. Let us stop for a moment to survey some of the branches of our work which more intimately touch the masses of people. I do not propose or claim to be able to present a perfect and complete portrait of the marvellous progress of our craft, but even the dullest can see some rays of light in the picture which must appeal to them very strongly. No more than half a century ago the unfortunate, suffering from that direst of all afflictions, the loss of reason, was separated from his fellows,