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SOME PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUPRARENALS.*

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FIRST, let me express my sincere gratitude for the high compliment which you have paid me in asking me to give the address in Medicine; it was impossible to hesitate about accepting such an honor even had it not been conveyed through Professor Osler, who, hailing from McGill, is now Regius Professor in Oxford. The subject matter of an address in medicine must always be a source of some anxiety to those entrusted with the honor. It may either be on general lines and deal with the history, recent advances, future and relations of medicine, or it may be more special and deal with a single subject. Each course has its own disadvantages; but, after some consideration, I have decided on a special subject, and must beg your indulgence for the following review of some problems in connection with the suprarenal glands.

As is well known, the suprarenals are composite glands consisting of two portions which are distinct from a developmental and from a physiological point of view—the cortex derived from a coelomic epithelium of the Wolffian ridge and closely related to the genital glands, and the medulla derived from the sympathetic and neuro-ectodermal in origin. These two portions are separated from each other in elasmobranch fishes, the cortical cells forming the single inter-renal gland and the medullary cells a series of paired bodies connected with the sympathetic (Swale

*The Address in Medicine delivered at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association at Montreal, September 12th, 1907.