

mony and good-fellowship, and unite on the common ground of our interest in our institutions and the profession at large.

It is idle as it is undesirable, among independent, earnest and educated men, to look for uniformity of thought or opinion on all questions which may arise, but let us respect to the fullest degree honest differences, and as university men, let us cultivate a spirit of freedom of thought and action.

Above all, let our quarrels and differences, if any, be among ourselves and not unnecessarily aired in public, or submitted to the judgment of outsiders, indiscreet enough to meddle in family affairs or ready to deliver judgment on *ex parte* evidence.

It is customary on occasions such as this to select for consideration some topic of outstanding interest and importance to the profession, a retrospect, perhaps, of recent medical progress, an appraisal of present conditions or an outline of the prospect for the future. In the ordinary even tenor of our way the task is usually not a difficult one, but what of the present, when bloodshed and destruction is the one absorbing interest of civilized nations?

Never by contrast, however, was the nobility and humanitarianism of our own calling more strikingly exemplified—the one profession whose sympathies and interests extend beyond international boundaries, whose chief duty is to *fight* against disease, to *conserve* the health and lives of the people, even to mitigate the scourge of war itself by its merciful service rendered alike to friend and foe. This is certainly not the time to abate our zeal or slacken our efforts in furthering the beneficent influences of the art and science of medicine.

Apart from the rapid advancement which has characterized every branch of medicine in recent years, undoubtedly the outstanding feature of the period is the world-wide movement to reorganize, to correlate and to amplify the various institutions and agencies associated with our professional work.

In the field of medical education we have seen the old proprietary schools, which served well their day and generation, gradually replaced by the medical departments of universities; the standards for matriculation and graduation have been raised, the course of study lengthened and many new subjects have been added to the curriculum; and adequate provision has been made for the systematic teaching of the fundamental sciences in extensive and well-equipped laboratories, under the direction of full-time professors.

A further tendency has been apparent during the past few years to separate medical education more widely from practice,