

These events have made it necessary that our plans for building shall be held in abeyance for the time being.

In this crisis, as in the past, our profession has stood ready to accept its share of sacrifice, not only in answering the call of duty in active service, but in contributing both time and money for the care of the needy dependents of our soldiers, and for the relief of the increased sickness among the poor of our city. Most of us shall not have to face the dangers and hardships of active service, but the hearts and prayers of every Fellow will follow those of our colleagues, including the chairmen of two of our sections who have gone, and they may be assured that each of us will consider it not only a duty but a privilege, to conserve as far as possible their interests in their absence.

During this session we are unlikely to be favored by visits from transatlantic colleagues, whose contributions to our programmes have been such a valuable feature of our meetings in past years. It is a great satisfaction, however, to know that we still have our good American friends to call upon, one of whom, in the person of Dr. L. G. Cole, of New York, we shall have the pleasure of hearing to-night.

There is none among us who does not look forward with confidence to the time when "danger's troubled night depart" and peace with honor shall be again established. In the meantime there is no duty more important, no service greater, with those of us who remain at home can render our country than loyally to uphold those institutions and interests committed to our special care.

May one go farther, and express the wish that one among you more worthy had been in my place, to say that this is an opportune time to rise superior to personal differences, jealousies or factions; to set aside all "ancient forms of petty strife," and emulating the spirit of political parties at home and abroad, to cultivate harmony 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 *exparte* 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