

held in Ottawa, and in order not to tax the local profession in any way the Government might be asked to vote a small sum, say one thousand dollars, for the purpose of entertaining the delegates. I feel convinced that the members of the profession in Parliament would at any time give such a scheme their hearty support. The time has certainly arrived when a change of some kind is imperatively demanded in order to save the Association from absolute decay. It is difficult to arrive at any other conclusion when we consider that the average attendance for the past five years has been barely one hundred, while the number of licensed practitioners in the Dominion is over four thousand. I am most anxious that this subject should again receive your earnest attention, and I should be pleased to hear, after the completion of this address, a general expression of opinion regarding it. This Association should be one of the most powerful guilds existing on this continent. Its forces should be numbered by thousands, not by tens. Away, then, with local prejudices. Away with conflicting interests, and let there exist only that unity of purpose, that oneness of brotherhood which inspired the men who met here twenty-four years ago for the purpose of organizing this Association. Their idea was to follow up the grand scheme of Confederation in connection with our profession, and we shall be traitors to their memories (because the great majority of them have since passed away) if we fail to carry out their patriotic intentions.

In the name of the profession of Montreal, I extend to you a hearty welcome. Our American visitors we are pleased beyond measure to have among us, as on occasions of this kind only are we afforded an opportunity, in ever so feeble a way, of reciprocating the favours which are being constantly bestowed on us by the profession in the United States. To the delegates from the various provincial associations I would also extend a hearty welcome.

This is the fourth occasion on which you have honoured this city by your presence as an Association. You will have noticed many alterations and improvements since your last visit. Our population is now over two hundred and sixteen thousand, and