

examples of life sacrifices, daring deeds, unexcelled industry and charitable acts, the most altruistic to be found in any calling or profession, for

“ 'Tis what the happy to the unhappy owe,
For what man gives, the gods by him bestow. ’

The surgeons of generation after generation have been stimulated to emulation by the precepts and examples of the great surgeons of the preceding generation, and the sum total of their true labors we now cherish, practice and enjoy. The differentiation of the work done in various countries and the designation of it as being national, no longer pertains. We do not now recognize British, German, French, Italian, or other surgery as being different from one another, or from that of our own. An American gave anæsthesia to the world, not to America alone, and equally true it is that a Briton gave us practical antiseptic surgery, founded on the bacteriological researches of a great Frenchman. In looking over surgical literature it is noticeable that the surgeons who had played the most prominent parts in the evolution of our art and science had walked the hospitals in other countries, sat at the feet of masters, studied in foreign laboratories and conducted experiments of their own. A personal friendship was thus formed between the profession of one country and another, and the knowledge of one became the knowledge of all, until now reciprocity is complete.

The western men unhampered by the restraining influences of ancient customs and effete precedents have been, for some time, and are now more than ever, scattering scientific and practical seeds from the tree of knowledge that has been transplanted into our virgin soil, to all the world through innumerable channels, so much indeed as to command the attention and respect of the wise and noble men of the east. The increasing number of distinguished surgeons visiting us every year is complimentary. In addition to individual visitations of doctors from one country to another and conveying principles and practices to and fro, there are other professional avenues through which surgical knowledge finds its way to all nations. Chief among these are the publication of books, monographs and treatises; the issuance of journals; and the publications of transactions of special societies.

The influence of professional gatherings, from the smallest local society to the great national associations, with their surgical sections, reaches far and wide. Then comes the special surgical associations, international congresses and now an “International Surgical Association” is organized, by representative surgeons from each country, to work on special surgical lines. This reaches a plane in search of scientific truths that has never been attained before in the surgical world.