

# CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*An Address upon the "Progress of Medical Science,"* read before the New Brunswick Medical Society. BY WILLIAM BAYARD, M.D., Edinburgh, President of the Society, &c., &c.

GENTLEMEN.—The By-Laws of our Society direct that the president shall be elected annually; the rule is a good one, placing, as it does, the "honourable situation" into the hands of those who gave it, perhaps to be bestowed upon a more worthy member: and my term of office having expired, I must this evening call upon you to select another in my stead.

In retiring from the chair in which you have so kindly placed me, I would do injustice to my feelings, did I not avail myself of this opportunity to thank you for the courtesy that has been universally exhibited towards me, and let me add, that our meetings and debates have been conducted in a spirit of fraternity and kindness highly pleasing to reflect upon; illustrating the fact that associations like this tend to cultivate the heart, as well as the head, and to promote professional good will, and genuine brotherhood among their constituent members.

That the study of medicine is vastly promoted by such associations must be acknowledged. For the stimulus of mind upon mind, invigorates and sharpens the intellectual faculties, and produces a kind of intellectual contagion stimulating members to exertion. Our mutual intercourse, criticisms, and discussions, form "at once a school and an ordeal," teaching us to become more rigid observers of the medical phenomena occurring in our practice, more careful in our classification of these phenomena, and more perfect in our deductions from them.

Few of us leave this room without having heard some new professional fact, or idea, calculated to arrest our attention, and perhaps destined to give us a new and increased interest in some particular disease. And we are justified in assuming that the progress made in the healing art during the present century, may be attributed, in a great measure, to the stimulating and regulating influence of medical association.