

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

ABSTRACT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE CAN-
ADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 23rd, 1909.

By R. J. BLANCHARD M.D., Winnipeg.

“IN the evolution of society we have been accorded a position of great responsibility, and if we succeeded, a position of great honor, viz.: the study of every condition bearing on the health and strength of our fellow-citizens, the cure or prevention of every form of disease, and the relief of every form of bodily suffering. It has proved a heavy contract and one in which, unfortunately, very little assistance is coming from the government or even from the people who are so directly concerned. For while it is true that individually we are accorded, as a rule, more than our due credit, on the other hand as a combination seeking only the highest interests, we are regarded with scant courtesy or even with suspicion. Without attempting to account for this anomaly, I venture to express the belief that we are at the dawn of better days, when we shall have even encouragement and assistance from the public in our endeavor to bring the profession to the highest possible efficiency.

“The situation in Canada demands in the first place organization. We have over 6,000 medical men in Canada whose views on many questions effecting profoundly the status of their profession and the public weal are practically identical, but for want of united effort our currents turn away and lose the name of action. The roster of the Canadian Medical association should include the names of every licensed practitioner in Canada; having every local organization affiliated and giving expression to its influence through its representatives and through the journal of the association, which we are now in a position to establish without further delay. When Canadians definitely settle in their minds that there is an advantage in the organization of medical work and that the profession has an important function in the body politic, its statement will find it to their advantage to see that the people get the greatest possible benefit from those set apart in the evolution of society for this work.

“The medical profession has been from the beginning and probably will exist to the end of human history.”

Dr. Blanchard next referred to the Medical Acts of the legislatures, and claimed that they were put there because they were beneficial to the community and should be either made effective or abolished.

The doctor next dwelt on the question of quacks in medicine, and stated that the prosecution of such a man or woman should be left in the hands of the medical profession.