

And here let me express on behalf of every representative from the British Isles, and on behalf of every Canadian present, the genuine pleasure we feel in having among us on this memorable occasion so many of our brethren from the United States. This only proves the cosmopolitan character of our profession ; this is only another recognition of the unity of medicine. Legislators may squabble, the air may be filled with wild alarms, and war may appear imminent day by day, but our relations are not disturbed in the slightest degree ; our interests are common—we are kinsmen in science ; we go forward hand in hand, irrespective of race or creed or color, having one intent only,—the advancement of our noble profession, and through that the amelioration of the ills of mankind.

It is my privilege also to welcome the representative of another Republic, La Belle France, to whose gifted men of science our profession is so greatly indebted. This gentleman, who bears the credentials of his Government, and officially represents the great nation of which he is so bright an ornament, is known far and wide as the Professor of Physiology in the University of France, Dr. Charles Richet. In coming to Canada it cannot be said, nor will he feel, that he comes to a foreign country, for in the Province of Quebec he will find another France, with a delightful mingling of the old and the new : his own beautiful language spoken with all the grace and purity of the old *régime*.

But we are further honored by the presence among us to-day of the most illustrious surgeon of our generation, Lord Lister, who stands for the rise and zenith of modern surgery. It has been well and truly said that as long as surgery is scientifically discussed Lord Lister's name cannot fail to be mentioned. We have only to compare the surgery of the time before 1873 with the surgery as practised to-day to appreciate all that he has done for the science. Can it be for a moment questioned that Lord Lister has made operative proceedings possible which only twenty-five years ago would have been considered criminal? Undoubtedly, the most powerful agency in the development of surgery in this century has been the introduction of the antiseptic and aseptic methods of wound treatment which he initiated. It is due to his efforts that surgical wards have been freed from pyæmia, and the mortality of lying-in hospitals reduced to the limits of normal parturition. For the past twenty years honors many and great have been showered upon him. Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Toronto, and now McGill, have vied with one another in hastening to do him homage. Our Sovereign, in conferring upon him the richly deserved distinctions which he bears with such gracious dignity, only gives expression to the general feeling of his countrymen throughout the Empire and his admirers the world over. We are glad, I say, to have him with us to-day ; his presence is an intellectual stimulus and an energizing force in our deliberations.

It is, I understand, an unwritten law of the Association that the President shall not in his address encroach upon the topics which belong by right and usage to the readers of the main addresses and to the presidents of the various sections. I have observed that the majority of my predecessors have contented themselves with discoursing on objects and circumstances of local in-