

"Run if you like, but try to keep your breath,
Work like a man, but don't be worked to death."

To organizations such as these, gentlemen, we owe our present eminent status as physicians—and I use the word eminent advisedly when remembering that but a few decades ago medical men and surgeons had to supplement their scanty earnings by hairdressing and other employments of a similar character; in fact not until the year 1858 were physicians in England able to collect fees by law, but depended upon honoraria as remuneration for services rendered. The Nova Scotia Medical Act, the Provincial Health Act, in fact all legislation which we have for the protection of the medical practitioner of to-day, and of the Public Health, is due to organized effort largely in the shape of medical organizations such as ours. The Dominion Registration Act,—I think it is called—with which Dr. Roddick has been so intimately associated, and which has laid the profession under a life-long debt of gratitude to him, is the legitimate offspring of medical organization.

The causes which bring about organized effort in commercial, religious and national life are known to all, and for similar reasons organized medical effort is necessary. We have great and pressing problems to deal with, which can only be successfully undertaken in the organized capacity. A vast deal has already been accomplished as before suggested; the true relation of the medical practitioner to society at large is gradually being made manifest both to himself and to society. But the ideal has not yet even been approximated. The ignorance of our best educated people in regard to matters medical is simply astounding. There is an air of superstition and mystery still enveloping disease and the treatment of it. This is continually fostered by the unscrupulous charlatan and patent medicine vender through advertisement and fraudulent testimonial, spread broadcast by the secular and religious press. That such a condition of affairs is permitted to exist is a matter of surprise to educated physicians. Here we, as an organized body, recognizing the *status quo*, have a great mission, and this alone is ample warrant for our existence. It is our privilege and duty to educate the people in regard to diseases, their nature and method of treatment, and to help them to see how they are being imposed upon, and having done that, unite with them in procuring the necessary legislation to prevent such frauds from being perpetrated. To this end we must avoid all appearance of