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“THE PASSING OF THE SURGEON” IN TORONTO.*

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Gentlemen of the Toronto Medical Society :

Since your courteous and self-sacrificing natures have put me in the President's chair, it would ill befit the present occasion if I did not most heartily thank you for the honor—for honor I esteem it—conferred upon so humble a member of our fraternity, in placing me as you did in this unsought-for position.

Upon finding myself enjoying such unenviable prominence, I began to look about me for a subject upon which to address you this evening. I looked to the progress of medicine, and of surgery, and found them worn well-nigh threadbare with over-repetition. In review I passed over such topics as the duties of the medical man as a citizen, the question of medical education, and of medical defence, the surgery of the olden times, and the prevention of tuberculosis and its concomitant wrangles of interested parties with axes to grind. For some time the question of medical ethics held me, for I thought I could call attention to a few matters of daily occurrence that tend to diminish rather than to elevate the dignity of the profession, but I feared it might be unbecoming in one so young to undertake the teaching of his seniors, for although one calls to mind the instruction, “A little child

*President's address at the opening meeting of the Toronto Medical Society,
October 3rd, 1901.