

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

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IN accordance with the Constitution of the Ontario Medical Association, it is the duty of the President to address the annual meeting, setting forth the condition of the profession in the province. The difficulty confronting one at this time is not to find topics suitable for discussion, but rather to select from among the multitude of important matters which suggest themselves, those of most immediate and pressing interest, and attempt to consider them with due regard to their relative importance. While I deeply esteem the honour of having been elected to the presidency of this Association, one cannot but appreciate the difficulty of doing justice to the position, or of rising to the responsibilities and opportunities of so critical an occasion in our national and professional history.

We are meeting at a time pregnant with the most momentous issues since the dawn of the Christian era, under the shadow of the greatest calamity in history, with our Empire and her Allies engaged in a death struggle to uphold the cause of freedom and justice against a military despotism, which, in the guise of Kultur, seeking world power with the ethics and by the methods of the barbarian.

Those who have admired, perhaps too highly, German learning, scientific achievement, energy and genius for organization, have lived to see all of these directed by an ambitious and cruel autocracy, abetted by subservient professors, clergy and publicists, and prostituted to the basest of material ends. As members of a profession which has acclaimed German discoveries that have saved thousands of human dere-licts, we must hereafter charge the autocratic system which encouraged their scientific achievements with the subordination of all the resources and capabilities of the nation to an aggressive war, which has led to the slaughter of millions in the flower of manhood; and reflecting on this we shall in future be more appreciative of the blessings of democracy, even with its attendant muddling and inefficiency. Well may we pray to be delivered from the blessings of Kultur and efficiency if they must be acquired by the sacrifice of freedom, of honour, and of those principles of religion, ethics and morality which have served in the past as standards by which men and nations are judged.

In the presence of these great events monopolizing the attention and absorbing the energies of our people, all other interests fade into