

In his address in Convocation Hall he touched upon a number of points of rare interest.

In the first place he said that the gas bacillus had been discovered in 1892 by Dr. Dakin, but there had only been observed about 200 cases of this infection prior to the present war, and, therefore, almost no research work had been done upon it.

When the war commenced there soon were very many cases, and the results were most serious. France and Belgium were old and highly fertilized soils and full of the organism. This explained many instances of infection. It was also an organism that had marked resistance, and not always destroyed by the processes cloth was put through in its preparation. In this way the wounded soldier had a likely chance of infection.

Dr. Alexis Carrel discovered that freely flushing of wounds with a compound of chlorine and boric acid was most valuable in preventing infection and in controlling it when it had occurred. This treatment had removed much of the terror of gaseous gangrene.

More recently Dr. Bull had been working at the Rockefeller Institute on cultures of the bacillus obtained from virulently infected wounds. As the result of the experiments on pigeons and certain animals, an anti-toxin had been secured that had marked immunizing power and also curative value for animals. A supply of this was now being furnished for the army.

Col. G. G. Nasmyth, C.M.G., LL.D., of the Health Department of Ontario, gave an address recently before the Royal Canadian Institute. He pointed out how completely contagious diseases had been brought under control. The chlorination and filtration of the water, and the employment of inoculation had banished typhoid and paratyphoid fevers from the army.

By the taking of proper precautions smallpox, typhus, dysentery, cholera and tetanus did not occur; and very much had been accomplished in the way of controlling tuberculosis. These examples of progress are so astounding that one is amazed that some schools of thought still reject the value of experimental medicine.

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#### ORGANIZATION.

One word on organization. Each city and county should lose no time in forming an active association. This association should have two objects in view—the professional and the business. The latter of these for the present is the more important. These associations should explain to the member of the Legislature representing the various constituencies the true views of the medical profession on the need for a high standard of medical education.