

labours should be conducted. In the presence of so many experts it would, I feel, be out of place for me to do so. My personal object in asking you to meet me here to-day, is to join with you as the leading representatives of the medical profession, in pressing upon the people of Canada the urgent necessity of combating the danger which besets them. The task before you is not an easy one, but I have no doubt you will determine that the battle must be won. Look back at the medical and surgical triumphs of last century, and remember that we have now to a great extent passed the age of research, and stand where scientific knowledge gives us the power to act. I hope, gentlemen, that, possessed as you are of that scientific knowledge, the work you have so patriotically undertaken may, as years go on, do much to contribute to the health and happiness of your fellow countrymen.

ADDRESS

BY

SIR JAMES GRANT, M.D., K.C.M.G.

The object in view by His Excellency in calling you here to-day is no doubt well known. This is the initial stage of a new century, the progress and advancement of which cannot be better marked than by the guidance and direction of our people in matters of public health. Conventions of a like character are now being held in many of the great centres of the world, and the present effort of His Excellency to give a helping hand to the people of Canada, in order to stay the spread of tuberculosis, cannot but be accepted with feelings of thankfulness and gratitude from ocean to ocean.

It is a well known fact that already two distinct races have passed away on the North American continent, and there is little left as to their history but mounds in the West and vestiges in Florida, as records of the past.

The acceptance of any great truth in science generally is proverbially slow and gradual as to recognition. Antiseptic surgery was fully twenty years leading to victory. To-day we are nearing the twentieth year of the discovery by Dr. Koch of the germ of tuberculosis, which for really practical results has no equal in the past century. By the present congress we have now entered on the economic stage, in order to demonstrate beyond a doubt the aim and object of the noble and philanthropic work now undertaken. By public hygiene within the past fifty years, a great change has taken place in the reduction of the death rate from such diseases as cholera and yellow fever. "The White Plague," consumption, is without doubt the scourge of our present race, destroying more than 5,000,000 annually. The yearly death rate in Canada is now