

to ourselves. But, let it be well understood that, in making this appeal to French Canadian medical men I do not pretend to exclude from this society those of other extraction. We have already the advantage of counting some of them among us who do honor to their nationality and to our society. If I have made this appeal to French Canadians it is because the society is composed, in good part, of the French Canadian element, to which especially these remarks are addressed.

In accepting the presidency of the society my greatest aim would be to see disappear from among us, if it ever existed, all spirit of cliques and rivalry. All opposition existing between medical men of different schools ought to be obliterated when they come to the *Société Médicale*. We belong to it before anything else; we are not attached to any party in particular. Some prejudiced persons might perhaps accuse us of having a certain preference for Laval University, because we hold our meetings under the same roof as it. But I would have them to remember under what favorable circumstances we have come in here; we cannot have forgotten the generosity with which this asylum was offered to us by the Rev. Abbé Verreault. The same advantages are continued by the Laval University, and we are at the same time assured of our freedom of action and perfect independence in every thing regarding the *Société Médicale*. There is, therefore, every advantage to the public as well as ourselves to join hands, and uniting for the advancement of science in our midst. Permit me to cite in this regard the example shown us by the *Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal*. Read the reports of their meetings, and you will see that a large number of the English professors, both old and young attend them regularly, and that there reigns among them perfect unity. And yet that society is composed of members belonging to rival schools. In spite of that, however, they like to meet each other on a footing of equality; they put aside all party feeling in order to work for the common good. If I have spoken of examples to be followed, believe me, gentlemen, that I am far from forgetting what the *Société Médicale* has done since its formation. I ought to have rendered homage to those of its members who have always held themselves in readiness to work for its good, and

hold it in the position of advancement which it occupies to-day. Still I am sure more might be done.

First of all, every member should consider it his duty to attend our meetings. Next, each one of us should make an effort to render them as attractive as possible, by submitting to the society reports of all the interesting cases occurring in the Hospital, Dispensary, or private practice. How many pathological specimens might we not procure in order to submit them for example and discussion by the members of the society? and might we not also make here some chemical experiments? Certainly we should be able to find among us some chemists sufficiently skilled to take charge of their demonstration. Chemistry is often too much neglected in ordinary practice; and these experiments made from time to time would give to our meetings a new attractiveness, and would be of great use to the old who have forgotten, and for the young who would find in them something to learn.

I cannot let this occasion pass, gentlemen and dear confrères, without glancing backwards and telling you a few words about the origin and progress of our society. Although young, it yet has a history, and has made its mark in the medical arena of the Province of Quebec. The *Société Médicale* of Montreal was formed on the 8th of November, 1871. The founders were Drs. Coderre, Bibaud, Peltier, Rottot, Larocque, Dagenais, Rollin, Bruneau, J. W. Mount, E. P. Lachapelle, Dubuc, Brosseau, Desjardins, Ricard, L. J. P. Desrosiers, A. Dugas, Poitvin, Durocher, Vilbon, Meunier, Quintal, Leblanc, Plante, Perrin, Deschamp, Perrault, Bondi, E. Robillard, and George Grenier. If it gives me pleasure to see again to-day in our midst some of the faces which I saw there at the origin of the society I cannot refrain from telling you how much I regret not seeing the loved faces of them who are no more. Among others, that of our esteemed confrère, the late Dr. George Grenier—of that man, as humble as he was learned, whom we agreed to call our perpetual secretary, and the spirit of our society. There are others who fail to respond to the roll call, among whom many, my seniors, are still in the full vigor of their health and intelligence. If they think that they should for a time abstain from attending our meetings, let us hope they will soon