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EDITORIAL.

PROFESSOR OSLER'S ADDRESS IN MEDICINE.

Professor Osler did well to select "The Treatment of Disease" as the subject for his address before the Ontario Medical Association. The views of the profession have undergone many changes upon disease, its etiology and its treatment, during the long centuries that separate us from those when Hippocrates speculated upon the laws that govern health and disease. It was well, therefore, for one of Professor Osler's knowledge of the history of medicine to pass under review some of these changes.

For long centuries the opinion held sway that sickness was "The scourge of God for the sinners of the world." This doctrine is by no means dead, and even to-day we see lingering evidences of it in many of the sayings and beliefs of the people, even among those who boast a good education. The Christian Science of to-day is a coarse and vulgar manifestation of the teaching that all disease is sin, and its cure must come by appeasing an offended deity; but this only by way of a fee paid to the so-called healer by the unfortunate victim of this gross superstition and compound of ignorance and credulity. The doctrine of demonology and witchcraft is far from dead, many there be who bend the knee to some unknown power or mystic force, as do the Indians to the spirit of the great Manitou. And so it is that thousands flock to various shrines. The temple worship of the ancients, the tomb worship of Mahomet, sacred grottoes, and the white lamb's skin nailed to a tree by the Western Indian, are all of a kind, and appeal to the psychic element in man.

The advances of modern medicine has shown how futile it must be to trust to such means in the treatment of cancer, an acute infection, or a dislocated joint. That an appeal to the imagination has a place in medicine, none who are conversant with the laws of psychology will deny. But this is a far different thing to a state of ignorant superstition. Professor Osler puts the case well by showing that the great scourges of the past were due to some infection and the violation of the laws of sanitation. The proper knowledge of disease has pointed the way to its