

touch with new methods of doing old things.

The establishment of the Medical Society, as we know it to-day, is practically co-incident with the marked advance in medicine which began during the latter part of the 18th Century. Medicine at this time was fairly emerging, under the influence of the development of scientific thought, from the mists and cobwebs of the systems and traditions with which, in the Middle Ages, it had become surrounded.

Men like Sydenham in England, friend and contemporary of Locke, in the middle of the 17th Century and Boerhaave in Holland at the beginning of the 18th Century had done much to lay broad the foundation of the doctrine of experience, observation and experiment upon which the triumphs of Modern Medicine have been based.

Sydenham indeed "declined to be like the man who builds the chambers of the upper story of his house before he has laid securely the foundation walls."

One of the effects of the new thought was the establishment of Medical Societies. Men working in a common cause for the common good, must have felt the necessity of a common meeting place where discussions of their interests could be carried on. Once commenced, however, I think we may fairly claim for Medical Societies as the "clearing houses" of medical opinion, no inconsiderable share in the progress of medicine; so marked a feature of the 19th Century.

Doctors are also in need of a common meeting place on account of the necessarily isolated character of their occupation. Much of our work is personal, done in private without onlookers to applaud or criticize. Such a condition tends to bring on a sense of inability or of arrogance according to the nature of the individual. To either or to both these characters, the Medical Society offers a wholesome corrective. Here, the over-weighted professional man who feels the burden of his cares and responsibilities pressing too heavily upon his tired shoulders, may find comfort and stimulus when he learns that "there are others." To the arrogant the Medical Society is even more necessary. The man who knows it all should make a special point of coming to the meetings; he