

A PANORAMIC SKETCH

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IN undertaking to present a paper this evening, I presumed it was simply to be an incident in the course of your usual entertaining series of events, and I much fear that if I am to provide the refecation for the entire session many will go away disappointed. It is impossible in writing in the vein I propose altogether to get rid of the "ego" that is bound to crop out prominently. Nevertheless, I wish it to be understood that this is in no sense an autobiography, but just a recounting of events in which I have been a participator, more or less. I am thankful to say I still retain the long life desire to work and to be active in professional channels, and I hesitate to be charged with that reminiscent faculty so appropriate to decrepitude.

I engaged in my class room and hospital work in the early seventies at a most interesting and decisive period when we were not yet even on the threshold of the truth as it applied to uncleanness, but I was fortunate in witnessing the struggles of extraordinarily able teachers and hospital workers who were even then able to distinguish gleams of light and some sunshine through the mists and fogs of ignorance. So much has been written and published in the years that have gone by in the way of addresses at scientific gatherings, most of which you are undoubtedly familiar with, that I forbear even to add a short quota.

It is the old familiar tale of wasted effort, disappointments and misgivings, trials unspeakable, when human life was considered, and a hopelessness of ever reaching the success due to unselfish and untiring devotion. To bring all this home to us now in 1915 would require the relating of specific examples and the introduction of the personal element of names and occasions that would exhaust the patience of even a well trained audience such as this. It will

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suffice to say that our minds and aspirations were tuned to the breaking point and that to me personally it has been a source of endless satisfaction and of educational value to have been born an M.D. the very year Listerian methods were first introduced into this country by Roddick. It seemed to require only this dawn of the new birth to awaken the keen intellects of the day to the enormity of the past and to lighten the horizon in all directions with an aurora that was shown not to have been extinguished, but only smothered and hidden by uncleanness then but dimly understood. To say that methods and practices began to be revolutionized will only feebly express the daily happenings, the quickly altering results, comfort succeeding misery, hope implanted that formerly was well nigh obliterated, new ventures for a time only dreamed of and spoken about with bated breath, here and there a triumph, regions of the body invaded that had up to now been held sacred, and all the time the gospel of a sepsis shedding its benign rays upon all who worshipped at its shrine.

To come nearer home, I recall with ease the first beginnings of abdominal work in Ottawa and the delight which followed on the successful surgical treatment of that bugbear to all physicians of the day—inflammation of the bowels—so called.

Each of you can picture for himself the stages of progress all along the line and how modernized methods from year to year have facilitated the work of cure in all departments.

Another interesting paragraph could be constructed in relation to the subject of internal medicine, but considering that only two weeks ago we had the advantage of listening to Dr. Hamilton, of Montreal, on a branch of this subject, viz., the ductless glands and their secretions, it will be superfluous for me more than to advert to it here. It is more in the line of the pathologist and laboratory worker to talk to you about the advances in serum-therapy and our attitude generally to the varying ailments affecting human life, but the work and observation of the clinician must not be lost sight of. His triumphs are often silent tributes to patient oversight and careful recording and while they are not accompanied by the brilliancy with the public of surgical victories, which in the main can be seen or felt, yet they are none the less great triumphs born of logical reasoning and profound research. Just at this juncture a meed of praise must be given to our venerable and revered colleague, Sir James Grant, who, as far back as 1861, observed the effect of the vaccine serum in assisting materially to hasten the cure of an obstinate skin rash. That this was not overlooked or passed

carelessly over is proved by the fact that an observation was recorded at the time and the facts published in an English medical journal of the day.

Most interesting memories are with me in relation to hospitals at the time of my studentship and subsequently. For years in the summer season I had the honour of being general purpose man in the old stone building surmounted by a cupola, which was a ward, known familiarly as the Protestant Hospital. Clinical clerk, dresser, maker of pills and potions all fell to my lot from March to October. No house surgeon, no skilled nurses, no ward man, and yet the daily work went on under a staff of earnest workers, all of whom had to do their own dressings and be on the alert for secondary hæmorrhage, or other disasters and inconveniences not necessary to enumerate. The sheds at the rear of the property decorated with smallpox patients, all of whom in a severe epidemic of those days had to be attended by members of the staff, and then later on the new building and greater conveniences, an enlarged staff, but yet those of us not at that date honoured by an appointment, not having any privileges whatever with our own private cases. No man could attend a sick person under that roof unless he was a member of the staff. This good old English rule cannot be sneered at even though it was inconvenient, but the low mutterings of discontent, yes of revolution, were heard gathering in force and a democratic upheaval began to spread through the province as regards hospital administration. A page of this subject I would fain omit, but I might be misinterpreted. Methods of hospital government began to be called in question and the position of members of the active staff became jeopardized in the maelstrom, according to our conservative way of thinking. Habits of life and environment are stubborn things to debate about and so from 1891 to 1896 the storm swayed and raged with a varying intensity and at this juncture the Protestant Hospital staff of fifteen men as a body decided to withdraw, for a matter to them of vital principle.

It was said to be pique, but I know better. There were some heartburnings and some personal acrimonies, but on the whole, on looking back through the vale of tears, I am convinced that the staff finally received credit for acting honourably and with a full sense of responsibility. Humanly speaking, we were the sufferers, and what it cost us in time and comfort and energy can only be conjectured. We determined to seek another home and we chose the southern part of the city, then but sparsely populated. Time

has flung her kindly vesture over these stormy scenes, and time has demonstrated that St. Luke's has taken her own place, and if it is not admitted that she at any time filled a felt want, surely it can be allowed that she has shown a "raison d'être" for her existence. Personally, I was in the forefront of that hospital storm. I had to be in the lime light owing to the position I then held. I stuck to my guns anyhow, and I never for a moment regretted it. I think I rather enjoyed it. Personal recriminations could not well be altogether avoided, but after all I scarcely believe I lost a friend, nor do I think I created a real enemy.

What shall we say of trained nursing? An attempt was made in a very humble way in the early eighties to secure for Ottawa a few trained nurses, but it was not till Lady Stanley, of Preston, the wife of the Governor-General, seriously took hold of the situation that anything definite was done. Her splendid personality and her high influence had its effect at once and "The Lady Stanley Institute" was the result. How this movement spread and helped us all I need not dilate upon, but many a man to-day with all the satisfaction and comforts he possesses in doing his hospital work ought to remember with gratitude some of his predecessors who gave of their time and their energy and their means to advance the interests of the sick and suffering by the establishment of training schools for nurses. That they have proved themselves a boon to us all has only to be mentioned.

I would like to take this occasion to remind my hearers that there are avenues open for the talents and activities of medical men not associated with the active practice of medicine and surgery, and that in a survey of this kind they ought not to be overlooked. Public health in its various activities offers a splendid field for study and work and has in its gift many an attractive position of honour and emolument for its adherents.

The work they do in a quiet unostentatious way for the betterment of their fellow beings is admitted on all sides, and yet many a hygienist passes along on the stage fulfilling his daily functions almost unobserved.

I have in mind one of my oldest friends, a resident of Ottawa, the Director General of Public Health, Dr. Montizambert.

He was appointed as assistant at the Quarantine Station at Grosse Isle in the St. Lawrence in 1866, and remained doing the summer's season work there year by year and guarding the Port

of Quebec until 1894, when he was made general superintendent of quarantine services. In 1899 he was made Director-General of Public Health with headquarters at Ottawa and installed as sanitary adviser to the Dominion Government. Under his management and control the service has grown and developed from a few crude sheds to four thoroughly equipped sanitary stations with laboratory workers and complete sterilizing outfits for human beings and their clothing, and for the disinfection of all ships, each station fitted for its work and officered competently, including skilled trained nurses. This work, together with supervision of the international boundary from Manitoba westward is being thoroughly inspected annually.

Together with this activity is the charge of the Lazarettos in New Brunswick and in British Columbia, all combining to constitute the entire work as one of absorbing importance.

As he so often has said to me "the more efficient such work is the less the public knows of it."

I have singled out this case owing to the position our friend has attained and because I know of many of the facts, but I realize that there are countless other men doing splendid work in like channels in cities and towns unheard of by their fellow workers in hospitals and at the bedside.

Then, in military life and all that goes to make efficiency in the field. A vista no doubt on some occasion spread itself before our friend, Surgeon-General Carleton Jones, many a year ago, and he took up that department with faithful patience and assiduity and he finally gained the top rung of the ladder. And so it goes on, and your minds will conjure up many an avenue of usefulness in public life open to the same energy and application as is called forth in the famous surgeon or internist.

Being active in the meetings of the Canada Medical Association all my life it was natural that I voiced what I believed was the opinion of the profession on the subject of the creation of a Department of Public Health under the Dominion Government.

Most of you know as well as I do the steps that were taken and the pressure used through the Canada Medical Association, but the truth is we did not speak loud enough. We could not have been united enough. Our strength waned at the wrong time. We did not drive home our arguments with the only ammunition that will move governments, viz., votes, and so up to date we have failed. The proposition was made clear enough. We asked only

something simple and common sense, viz., that matters of public health, now under the jurisdiction of about seven departments, with great inconvenience to the public, be brought together into one department, and that a political Minister of Health was not with the range of our demands, but that the department could be administered by one of the existing members of the cabinet. In this matter we are away behind nearly all civilized countries. A national laboratory, chemical and biological, ought to be at Ottawa, and then we could be put in possession of laboratory products so essential in these days, knowing them to be of standard composition and value and not be obliged to depend on commercially issued packages put on the market to make money out of.

The health of the individual of a country is one of its highest assets and yet we spend prodigious sums to protect the public at the borders where disease may possibly gain admission, yes, and huge sums in all directions where the health of cattle, or swine are concerned, both at the border and within the country, but nothing as a State is done to protect the lives and comfort of the Canadian atom created in our midst and acknowledged to be the backbone of the national wealth.

Canadian manhood and womanhood may have a higher place in national estimation when this titanic struggle in Europe is over, and possibly it will be learned that it is a useful thing to have strong and vigorous manhood available for the upholding of all that is worth fighting for, and that it would pay to preserve the interior of the nation in good health as well as merely guarding the borders from inroads from outside.

At the threshold of the opening of the new century I became convinced of the crying necessity for the establishment of an association that could be utilized for binding the profession from the Atlantic to the Pacific into a brotherhood for protection and defence against unworthy assaults on its members in relation to trumped up charges of malpractice and I devoted a major part of my address as president of the Canada Medical Association that year at Ottawa in 1900 to the consideration of this question.

I was quickly rewarded, because the next year at Winnipeg a scheme was formulated and I was asked to take charge of its organization. I consented on the one ground that it was to be made Dominion in its operations. This was acceded to and the work was undertaken. It was a labour of love and I threw my energies into it unsparingly. I was not well supported, but, realizing that

such schemes must have small beginnings, I began personal appeals to the many friends and acquaintances I had met throughout the Dominion while attending Canada Medical Association meetings. But for the loyalty and support of these friends my scheme was doomed to failure. However, I never let go and at last began to reap a success. It was small and of slow growth, but the premises being sound, I had no misgivings, and so plodded along, meeting with nothing but success in the defence of cases, albeit our treasury was in a sad state many a time and oft, for legal battles are expensive whether one wins or loses.

We paid out money cheerfully and in five or six years the horizon cleared and since then we have had no anxiety.

The majority of my hearers will have read my short annual addresses at the various meetings so I will not reiterate them.

My main theme was the constant preparation to enable us to step into the breach and assist an unfortunate, and probably maligned, brother in defending his integrity and his purse.

It is impossible to sum up the results in figures because where one action was brought to trial we silenced three others in embryo by accepting service of the writ whenever the plaintiff decided he was ready. I am gratified, however, to be able to say we have fought out at least thirty cases in open court and in all these, save one, we have come out victorious.

To estimate what this means to practitioners in local centres far away from proper facilities for preparing a defence in a law suit is well nigh impossible, but the relief of anxiety and the sense of confidence that we have been able to implant can in some measure be computed. We have never had to borrow a cent.

The annual dues of members cheerfully paid in year by year have supplied us with the sinews of war, and we have accumulated assets to-day of some \$10,000 available to work with if need be, and we have paid out in round figures about \$6,000 in legal expenses. We have just emerged victorious last month in two rabid cases in Western Ontario where the plaintiffs abandoned their actions in open court.

The most recent activity I have been engaged in has been the establishment of the Medical Council of Canada. It would take a ream of paper even to outline this operation with all its manifold entanglements since the eighties. The champion fighter was Sir Thomas Roddick and his pluck and pertinacity surpassed belief. He did not know the word failure and this dream so dear to him

inspired his whole being and inspired all those who came in contact with him in the prosecution of his scheme.

To tell of those whom he relied upon for support would be invidious unless I were in a position to name them all, but I can assuredly say that without Roddick and his strong personality the scheme would have died even after the first Bill was placed on the Statute Book in 1902. The small share I had in it was a constant source of delight to me, but I never wavered in my allegiance to Roddick, because I believed in him and in his scheme. It is delightful to me to know that he lived to see the fruition of his labours. His baby has been born and is a flourishing child. He was made its first president, and is now its permanent honorary president. It is a further satisfaction to know that his Sovereign saw fit to recognize his sterling worth, and the high position he attained to by granting him his imperial distinction.