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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

SURGERY AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT¹

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1926 Retiring President

FOR the second time in the 14 years of its existence, the American College of Surgeons meets today in the heart of the Dominion of Canada. Once again it celebrates its annual convocation and clinical congress within the historic and hospitable metropolis of British North America. It was in Montreal, 6 years ago, that we first met in commemoration of the union which since the very day of our foundation fused into a common fellowship the professional ideals and interests of the surgeons of the United States and Canada.

This was in 1920. Two years had passed since the volcanic fires of the World War had been extinguished, but the souls of men were still stirred and kept aglow by the memory of humanity's afflictions, and still felt the exaltation of its triumphs and heroisms. The time was opportune; the trysting place well chosen, for a meeting between the surgeons of America and of the British Empire. Brethren in a common cause, they had stood side by side with their allies striving to stem the tide of death, blood, and destruction which deluged the shell scarred fields of Europe. It was a glorious gesture of British surgery when to greet us on this occasion she sent her chosen representatives across the seas with a symbolic gift that spoke for the unity of the English peoples, their kinship in blood, language, and traditions, pledging the affections of the Mother country to the mission and ideals to which we of America had vowed our organization.

It was thus that the great Mace, now so proudly held at the head of our annual processions, was presented to us by the consulting surgeons of the British armies at the Front. It was indeed a glorious inspiration which led the standard bearers of British Surgery to design this beautiful gift as a massive and enduring testimonial of the ties that bind the English speaking nations in common brotherhood. It is not so long ago that this inspiring ceremony was enacted in this very city. It is still fresh in the memory of many who witnessed it. But several generations of new Fellows have since been added to our roll call and there

are still others now waiting for their investiture by the College, some of whom may not be familiar with the history of the great Mace and of the pledges that were exchanged at the time of its presentation.

Quoting the closing sentence of the address delivered by that inspired spokesman of British Surgery, Sir Berkley Moynihan, now president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, will suffice to prove that his message is not only worthy of repetition but peculiarly fitting upon this occasion, for the sentiments therein expressed remain uppermost in our minds today and are warmly harbored in our breasts.

"In our desire to perpetuate a remembrance of duty done together, we, the consulting surgeons of the British armies, ask the College of Surgeons of America, meeting in this great dominion, to accept this Mace. We pray that you may regard it as a symbol of our union in the harsh days of trial; as a pledge of our devotion to the same imperishable ideals; as a witness to our unflinching and unchanging hope that the members of our profession in the two lands shall be joined in brotherhood, forever in the service of mankind."

In reply, our president, the honored and beloved Dr. Armstrong of McGill and of the Victoria Hospital, himself a Canadian and, through his office, the living symbol of the union of the Canadian and American professions—standing in this great hall with the Dominion of Canada and the United States as a background to a magnificent panorama of international comradeship—accepted the great Mace, as a symbol of the zeal and enthusiasm in our art, which, arising in the old world, had spread to the new world. "We shall endeavor," he said, "to keep on this western hemisphere the sacred flame of Science burning not less brightly than did our forebears in Great Britain. It will remain with us an emblem of unity, a work of art and a remembrance of the great effort of the two English speaking nations, to give truth, liberty, and justice to all people and to all nations. The fire of Science represented in this gift welds another link in the chains that

¹Address of the retiring President, Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, Montreal, October 25, 1926.

bind us forever in united effort to promote the highest possible standards of surgery as well as peace and good will among men."

Such is the story of the great Mace and we are here again, in Montreal, happy to renew the pledges of 1920 and to stand by all, and everything, that the great Mace means to us as a symbol of the solidarity of our guild and of the limitless domain of our science and of our art when engaged in the service of mankind.

In harmony with the spirit of international cooperation which from the very foundation of the College has united our aims and our purposes with those of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of the United Kingdom, and apart from the special significance which the presentation of the great Mace attached to our first Convocation in Montreal, other thoughts gather about our present visit to this cosmopolitan metropolis which invest it with delightful associations and anticipations.

The admirable report of Dr. Bazin, chairman of the local committee of arrangements, just read, attests the zeal and good will which the profession of Montreal has put into the task of instructing and entertaining us. The doors of all the hospitals and institutions, irrespective of denomination, have opened wide to receive our Fellows. A full program of clinics, surgical operations and other technical demonstrations has been arranged. It bids fair to rival and even surpass the brilliant record of 1920, in excellence of arrangements and in wealth and variety of clinical material that will be exhibited and discussed by the eminent surgeons who are at the head of these institutions. These distinguished teachers will contribute to the professional and scientific profit of this Congress by the lessons gathered from their learning and the witness of that skill which has made them famous.

In addition to our gratefulness for the arduous labors of the local profession, we are deeply appreciative of the presence of the distinguished guests from the Dominion, notably Sir Arthur William Currie, principal of McGill University, of Prof. Lotbinière-Harwood, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Montreal University, and the eminent surgeons from the United Kingdom, and from Italy, and from far away New Zealand and elsewhere, who have traveled a long way over land and sea to grace this occasion and to generously share with us the bounty of their science, their wisdom, and their art.

It is with a deep sense of appreciation that we see here assembled so many of our own Fellows

and associates, many of whom reside in the furthest states of the Dominion and of the American Union; and others from our island possessions, and again others from the still more distant countries of Central and South America; all these have come to attest their loyalty to the College and their devotion to its principles. All may be assured that their presence adds dignity to this occasion and that their participation in our exercises adds to the value of our Congress as a confirmation of its international character and of the unity of surgery in its humanitarian purpose. Guests, Colleagues, and Fellows, I again thank you most heartily in the name of the College and extend the warm hand of Fellowship.

Without presuming to anticipate the greetings that will accentuate the cordial welcome assured our distinguished guests when individually announced in the more formal introduction that is to follow, I cannot withhold an expression of special gratification as I recognize in this eminent company the regius professors of surgery of the Universities of Edinburgh and of Glasgow.

It is particularly appropriate that this should happen at a congress of American surgeons, held in the great capital of the Canadian Commonwealth—in a city and a province where the map is dotted all over with signs that point to the monuments erected to commerce, industry, and education, by the enterprise, energy and genius of Scotland's sons and their Canadian descendants, where Scottish medicine and surgery have been transplanted and flourish with wonderful fertility, and where the heather and thistle seem to grow apace with the maple and the fleur-de-lis—at least in the hearts of men. It is here that we admire the monumental height of McGill, casting its beacon light over a continent in radiant proclamation of the intellectual strength, the solidity, the stability of Scottish tradition and culture.

Agreeable as it would be to discuss the parental relations of the Scottish medical schools to the origin and development of medical education and medical institutions of "Greater Britain," including in this designation the United States, as did Osler, so appropriately, 30 years ago, this task has been done too often and too well to permit me more than an allusion to the space occupied by the universities of *Antiqua Scotia*, and particularly Edinburgh, in the medical history of America, where they are held in veneration not only as repositories of great historic shrines—shrines that are hallowed by noble traditions and memories of a glorious Past—but as fountains of living waters which continuously flow as a spar-

kling stream of gathered knowledge and fresh discovery. Need I invoke the names of the Munros (primus, secundus, et tertius), the Hunters (William and John), the Bells (Benjamin, John, and Charles), of Lizars, Liston, Ferguson, Simpson, and Syme; and of the later generation, Keith, Chiene, Annandale, Ogston, Macewen, Alexis Thompson, Stiles, and now Fraser, Wilkie, and Young, to an audience of Surgeons who are preparing to celebrate, with a scientific festival, the approaching anniversary of the one hundredth birthday of Joseph Lister—*Lord Lister*, if you will, not only Lister of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London, but Lord Lister of the world!

Is it not fitting that the successors of the immortal Master, the present occupants of the chairs of surgery which he successively occupied for 9 years in Glasgow, for 8 years in Edinburgh, who have so worthily maintained the prestige and renown of his inheritance, should be here with us today, to give luster to our proceedings and to unite their efforts with ours in rendering homage to the memory of their illustrious predecessor—Lister, not only the greatest surgeon of his age, but the greatest benefactor that the science of surgery has given to mankind!

LORD LISTER IN CANADA

It was in 1897 that the medical profession of Canada was roused to a high pitch of enthusiasm by the visit of Lord Lister. He had come to Toronto to preside over the British association for the advancement of science, and to participate in the annual meeting of the British Medical Association which was held in Montreal, for the first time in the history of these two most important associations.

The presence of Lord Lister in Canada was the signal for a continuous ovation which, beginning in Toronto, reached its climax in Montreal and never ceased its pean of praise until the day of his departure for England.

The proceedings of the association in Montreal, as recorded in the official journal, are particularly interesting and evocative of many retrospective reflections to the men of the profession who can go back these well-nigh 30 years that medicine has traveled in this momentous period of her history. I venture to say there are not many here who were active participants at that epochal meeting. The outstanding figures of that splendid drama have nearly all passed on to join the great majority, but there are others who were then in their prime and busy, building their great reputations—Shepard, Armstrong, Primrose, Franklin Martin,

distinguished in our guild, and others whose names I cannot recall at this moment, but whom I am happy to see here as in living testimony of their strength, vigor, and usefulness. Theirs is the enviable privilege denied their juniors. They saw the great apostle and heard his spoken word!

Lord Lister had just rounded his seventieth birthday, but was still active, vigorous, animated, and ready to meet the endless calls that were made upon him as the central and most courted figure in this vast gathering of the crowned heads of the profession. Sir Thomas Roddick, president of the association and one of Lister's most attached pupils, inaugurated the proceedings by an admirable address, in which he paid a most feeling and fitting tribute to his great teacher. The Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal gave Lord Lister a banquet and presented him with an illuminated address. McGill University conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D., in company with Professor Richet, the eminent physiologist who had come to the meeting as the delegate of the French Republic and of the French Academy, and, in addition to a group of distinguished men whose names stand for all that is highest and best in our profession.

SIR THOMAS RODDICK

Dr. Roddick, later Sir Thomas Roddick, as he was knighted in 1914, was the first colonial president of the first overseas meeting of the British Medical Association. In 1897, when he presided at this meeting, he was at the zenith of his reputation as the leader of the Canadian profession. That of which he was most proud, was his early association with Lister and the leading part which he had played in introducing Listerism into Canada.

As a surgeon, teacher, dean, administrator, and medical statesman he left at his death, in his seventy-seventh year, on February 28, 1923, a record of extraordinary usefulness in the service of his people and of his profession. The American College of Surgeons honored itself by conferring on him its honorary fellowship in 1914, 9 years before his death.

PROFESSOR J. GEORGE ADAMI

In going over the long list of the eminent men who contributed to the success of the Montreal meeting in 1897 and who are identified with the progress of medicine in Canada, my attention is arrested by the name of Professor Adami, at that time Strathcona professor of physiology and bacteriology at McGill. His death, which occurred in Liverpool, on August 26 of the current year,

has brought to mind the most memorable period of his life when he was a teacher in Montreal. He was then 32 years of age. An enviable reputation as a scientific investigator of unusual ability in pathology had preceded his coming to McGill. He had a remarkable clearness of vision and felicity of expression in the interpretation of obscure and complicated pathological and philosophical problems. The surgeons of America owe him a large debt of gratitude for familiarizing them with the modern concepts of inflammation as a defensive reaction based upon Metchnikoff's then all-absorbing researches on phagocytosis—a marvelous conception which Adami developed and invested with all the attributes of a fascinating philosophical doctrine. His article on inflammation in Albutt's and Rolleston's *System of Medicine* was recognized as an outstanding feature of that great compendium. The principles of pathology which appeared in 1909, and later his *Textbook of Pathology* in which he was assisted by his colleague, McCrea, of McGill University, did more to enlighten the American students of the nineties and to create an interest in the study of pathology than any other textbook published at that time.

It was my privilege to meet him when he came to New Orleans, April 24, 1912, where he read a paper on "Sensation and Pain" while a guest of the Louisiana State Medical Society. The charm of his conversation, breadth of view, and elevated thought, left with me, as with all of us, an ineffaceable impression.

I have merely touched upon this outstanding figure of Canadian medicine to express my deep appreciation of his personal worth and scientific merit. I feel grateful to his illuminating writings for the ray of light they brought me at a time when I was groping, like so many others of my time, to find my way in the darkness of new and conflicting problems. In Montreal, the seat of his greatest scientific triumphs, I feel that I would not be just to him or myself without dropping this little thought—a tiny flower grown in the garden of memory—in token of admiring appreciation.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER

The general address on medicine entitled "British Medicine in Greater Britain" was delivered by Osler and was one of the memorable features of the Montreal meeting in 1897. In this he reviewed with his characteristic felicity, brilliancy, scholarship, and human sympathy the factors which have moulded the profession in the English speaking lands—beyond the narrow seas of British medicine in Greater Britain." This address was a masterpiece of literary com-

position, not only in that it sparkled with gems of classic erudition, but in that it excelled in its large vision, comprehensiveness and thorough mastery of the field surveyed. His humanistic conclusions are largely tinged with Osler's British idealism, and the address as a whole leaves the impression of a vast and varied panorama which has been transferred to a colorful canvas painted by a master hand. It is an intensely inspiring document, every bit worthy of the enthusiastic acclaim with which it was received. To all who knew that incomparable humanist and apostle of Hippocratic medicine, who have been inspired by his magnetic personality and have been nourished intellectually by his writings, the perusal of his recent biography by Cushing, is enthralling. This extraordinary narrative is so vivid and photographically true to the great life that it portrays, that it leaves one with the impression of a resurrection, a living speaking incarnation of a life restored with all its living charm and spiritual loveliness. In this performance surgery may claim for one of its greatest masters, the miraculous achievement of bringing back to life one of the greatest and best loved of physicians—an operation performed not with the point of a knife, but with the point of a pen; so that we may well say, in paraphrasing an ancient legend, "the pen is mightier than the scalpel."

As stated by one of Osler's most distinguished friends and judicious commentators on his life (W. W. Welch): "Osler often applied to himself Gibbon's admission that he had drawn a high prize in the lottery of life," and surely his career also represents a successful experiment in the great art of living. One cannot fail to be impressed with the almost perfect adaptation of his talents and temperament to the accidents and circumstances of life, and not less to the dextrous ministrations of these diverse external events to the ordinary development and fulfillment of purposes and ideals formed in youth and early manhood. But rarely has Alfred de Vigny's conception of a great life been more fully realized: "*Qu'est ce qu'une grande vie? Une pensée de la jeunesse exécutée par l'âge mûr.*" (What is a great life? The dreams of youth realized in maturity.) Osler was fortunate in many ways, but fortune was never more gracious in life than she was in death, when she placed this imperishable record of his life as a wreath of immortelles upon his grave.

PROFESSOR CHARLES RICHEL

Professor Charles Richet, the distinguished physiologist, attended the Montreal meeting (1897) as a delegate of the French Republic and of

the French Academy. He delivered a brilliant address in French at Laval University on the "Work of Pasteur and the modern conception of Medicine." Pasteur had ended his labors for all time (in September, 1895), and his remains had been lying at rest for 2 years in the Memorial Chapel of the Pasteur Institute. This meeting of the British Association at Montreal, in a French Canadian province, made it singularly appropriate that so eminent a representative of French science and a pupil of Pasteur, should come to pay a tribute to his illustrious master. It was most fitting that on this occasion the names of Pasteur and Lister should be linked together and encircled with the same halo of glory in the presence of the two nationalities that gave them birth. It was a fine opportunity to extol the superb merits of one without detriment to the achievements of the other; and, in stressing the revolution that the scientific genius of Pasteur had wrought upon medical sciences, Richet gave just credit to Lister as a reformer and pioneer who had seen the light and illumined with it the dark shadows that for centuries had enveloped surgery, and had thereby lifted it from a rank empiricism into a glowing, vivifying and all-pervading science. "It seems to us now," he said, "that the medical profession before 1868 was blindfolded and that its blindness was almost criminal. These are *now* (1897) no more than historic memories. A sad story, doubtless, but one at which we must look calmly in order to understand what Science had done and can do for Medicine. Left to their own resources, practitioners of Surgery, during long centuries, could do nothing against suppuration, the deadly infections of wounds, erysipelas, hospital gangrene, pyæmia, septicæmia, puerperal infection; but basing itself upon Science, Surgery had triumphed by preventing these odious diseases, and relegating them to the past."

In speaking of the interdependence of medicine and experimental science, he closed with this fine thought: "From this unceasing collaboration, progress will be born, but it is necessary that men of science and physicians should be animated by these two governing sentiments: *faith in science and love of man.*"

PASTEUR AND LISTER

Professor Richet's lecture revives the historic episode which occurred at the Sorbonne, where an international gathering of the greatest representatives of the scientific world had assembled to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of Pasteur's birth (December 22, 1892). It was a dramatic and inspiring moment when Lord Lister, bearing the

congratulations of the Royal Societies of England and Scotland, rose, drew near Pasteur and gave him a fraternal embrace. It was a stirring moment; a spectacle never to be forgotten! This memorable scene has been faithfully preserved by a matchless artist (Rixens) on canvas that no lover of his profession can see without being moved by its grandeur and significance. For the embrace of these two men was like a living picture of the brotherly unity of Science and Medicine in the relief of mankind.

Some paragraphs of Pasteur's feeling address on that celebrated occasion are well worth recalling. In thanking the delegates who had brought him congratulations from all parts of the civilized world, he said "You bring me the deepest joy which a man can feel who believes invincibly that Science and Peace will triumph over ignorance and war, that men will unite not to destroy, but to build up and that the future will belong to those who have done most for suffering humanity, and here I appeal to you, my dear Lister and to you all, illustrious representatives of the sciences of medicine and surgery."

Fortunately for Pasteur and Lister they were both spared the agony of 1914-1918, and the *angor cordis* of witnessing their hopes and humanistic illusions vanish in the smoke of the funeral pyres of that fearful hecatomb.

"Pyres in the night, in the night!
In the plain, on the hill.
No volleys for their last rite,
We need our powder—to kill.
High on their golden bed,
Pile up the dead!

"Pyres in the night, in the night!
Torches, piercing the gloom!
Look! How the sparks take flight!
Stars, stars, make room!

"Smoke that was bone and blood!
Hark! the deep roar.
It is the souls telling God
The glory of WAR!

* * *

If I have evoked the splendid names of Lister and Pasteur and have dwelt at length on the events and personalities that have long since passed into the realm of history, it is not to indulge merely in agreeable recollections that might contribute to the amenities of this occasion. No. It is for a more specific purpose that I have appealed to the Past to illumine the Present.

The proximity of the Listerian centennial and the fact that we are meeting in the heart of the Canadian Dominion and in this cosmopolitan city, where two nationalities live together, speak different languages and pursue their ideals, political and national preferences, in perfect agreement as to their federated rights; where all the elements of history, romance, and tradition have mingled to inspire the international spirit—these are the considerations that have prompted me to profit by this opportunity to give expression to a few thoughts and sentiments that are in keeping with one of the chief purposes of this College, namely, *the promotion of international co-operation and comradeship among the surgeons of the world in the pursuit of the same humanitarian ideals.*

Pasteur, the father of modern scientific medicine, and Lister, the father of modern scientific surgery, are inseparably linked, in the eyes of the world, as the two greatest benefactors that the nineteenth century gave to suffering mankind.

In this humanistic sense these two personalities stand before the world as the embodiment of the spirit of internationalism which, in medicine, as in the pure sciences and liberal arts, is only an expression of the kinship and friendship of mankind. If I have evoked these great names it is only to bring into relief the cosmopolitan character of the surgeon in his humanistic and humane functions which are inseparable from his professional mission in the social body. By humanistic, I mean to differentiate between the duties of the surgeon that he owes to the individual and to his own particular community, and those that he owes to the collectivity—in a word to humanity—without any of the limitations imposed by geographical, social, racial, religious, or political frontiers.

The progress of surgery and the universal acceptance of the principles of surgical cleanliness laid down by Lister tend to give the surgeon a more objective evidence of his world citizenship than in any previous age. Dressed in white, immaculate, gloved, capped, masked, he officiates during the better part of his day in the operating room,—a veritable sanctuary, in which, by heat sterilization, the most refined cleanliness and purification prevails. To the visitor in any of the surgical clinics of the world, this uniformity is almost monotonous and is so lacking in individuality that it challenges the most expert observer to discover the nationality of the operator.

Whether in Tokio, New York, Paris, Cape Town, Calcutta, it matters not where, the surgeon, to outward appearance, is always the same,—the unit of a profession that claims no nationality

when in action, and only recognizes the world as its birthplace.

In War, as in Peace, the rôle of the surgeon as a peace-maker has been recognized from Homeric days to the Present. His altruistic creed, learned in the Æsculapian temples of Cos and Epidaurus, is truly an heirloom which he has held sacred, for the good of mankind, throughout the ages. The doctor is a pacifist by the very nature of his calling. He is the friend of all classes, through his ministrations, which apply equally to the rich and to the poor.

In the bitter clash of political factions one may be both the physician and intimate friend of the combatants. The disputes between labor and capital do not prevent the doctor from being trusted as the friend of the members of each group who forget, in relation to him, their class consciousness.

“When civic strife ran fierce and high,
His was the storm-assuaging speech
That made the wordy tumult die
And linked the neighbors each to each.”

Cabot, in his admirable book on the *Training and Rewards of the Physician*, tells that, in one of the labor wars of Colorado, when the strikers were put in the “bull-pen,” the only persons who passed freely from the outside to the inside of the stockade were the doctors. In the World War, it was only the surgeons and the nurses who could work alike for their allies or their enemies. The valuation placed upon the doctor’s knowledge has often not only protected him, but others, from violence and death, at the hands of foes. To kill the doctor would sometimes mean suicide for his enemies, who depend upon his knowledge to save them from the effects of pestilence and of wounds, if we are to judge by facts recorded in history. The extraordinary episode in Ambroise Paré’s life in which he relates how he was spared on St. Bartholomew’s Day, in the massacre of the Huguenots, his coreligionists, is one of the most remarkable events in his extraordinarily varied career. King Charles IX, who amused himself during the massacre by firing from a window of his palace at the flying victims of his persecution, kept crying out: “Kill! kill!” with never a wish to save one of them; and yet he would not allow a hair of Master Ambroise Paré’s head to be touched by his vindictive minions! On the eve of the massacre he sent for Paré that he might hide him in his own palace, commanding him not to stir out of the chamber next his. He said that it was not reasonable that one who was worth a whole world of men should be murdered; and he, Charles, would not urge

Paré to change his religion any more than he would urge his old nurse to change hers.

The peace-making virtues of the surgeon and physician have been prized by kings, conquerors, statesmen, explorers, and by the great colonizing nations of the world. Often they appear in history as strong allies of the Flag and of the Cross in the conciliation of conquered and unsubdued races. In the propagation of the faith as well as in the political subjection of heathen or savage races, the medical man has stood by the conqueror, explorer, and the missionary, not only as a healer of wounds, but also as a pacifier and soother of other not purely physical ills and woes.

The most successful French colonial administrators of recent times, Paul Bert, Gallieni, Mangin, Lyautey, thoroughly understood how to utilize the pacifying power of medicine and surgery in propitiating the good will of their savage or rebellious peoples. Marshal Lyautey's success in Morocco was largely due to the early establishment of hospital centers, with free surgical and medical clinics, throughout the protectorate. In this his wife gave him great aid by establishing schools and homes for trained nurses. Lyautey said, "In pacifying and conciliating the most unruly tribes, one good surgeon with a half dozen nurses was worth more than a whole regiment of soldiers." The same methods have been applied by British, German, Dutch, and other modern and enlightened colonial powers.

The rise of industrialism and mass production in manufacture, by great private corporations in this and other countries, has brought to the surface in recent years, and especially since the world war, new problems which involve the preservation and protection of the health of the millions of workers who are engaged in trades and industries. A new era in social medicine and surgery has arisen which has added enormously to the demand for international co-operation. A new literature has sprung up within the last few years in which such titles as "Industrial Surgery," "Prophylactic Surgery," "Railroad Surgery," "Surgery of the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Disabled from Accident and Injury," and other varieties of surgical service, have come into prominence. Today, the problems of compensation for injury among the employed working classes have opened new fields for enterprising insurance companies, and have created new opportunities for the younger generations of surgeons.

The effort of the great American philanthropists to benefit humanity at large through the instrumentality of medical education, by the en-

dowment of medical schools, by medical research, and international sanitation, is one of the most notable developments of the present age. In this work the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations tower to a great height. In the distribution and application of their wealth they have given to the world an example of statesmanship and wisdom which in generous intent and achievement has no parallel in the world's history. These and other benefactions, which American philanthropists are bestowing upon the world, through the agency of medical education and sanitary science, are only a few typical examples of the world gifts that have resulted from American idealism.

President Coolidge recently said (October 5, 1926), in commenting upon the humanitarian service of the American Red Cross in the Tokio earthquake and during the more recent devastating hurricane in Florida: "These manifestations of international amity and sympathy offer the most complete demonstration of the fact that our people in their capacity to accumulate property and wealth are moved by a righteous purpose," adding, "their success has not turned to greed, avarice, or selfishness, but has been productive of generosity, benevolence and charity—not to benefit America alone, but all the people of the earth."

There seems to be no limit to the possibilities of scientific medicine and surgery to which philanthropists are turning their minds as the hope of humanity. Philosophers see, as if in some far-off vision, a science which may come, as in the prophetic words of the son of Sirach: "To bring Peace over earth."

To illustrate the esteem in which the surgeon is held by all classes of society, and the leveling effect of his professional worth upon "class consciousness" and "class barriers," Dr. Tuffier, the distinguished French surgeon and one of our honorary Fellows, quite recently related the following interesting experience: "It was in the mid-winter of 1916, I was at the Front where we were in the thick of the fray. Suddenly I was called by a Belgian telegram to the bedside of my friend, Depage. He had been infected in the course of an autopsy. The infection had spread and was threatening his life or at least to mutilate him. I left the Argonne full of anxiety on his account, to arrive at LaPanne, that narrow streak of the Belgian beach which had been saved by Depage out of the wreckage of the German invasion, and which is so well remembered by all the Allied surgeons who flocked to it as a refuge of science and a home for the Allied wounded during the hours of Belgium's greatest affliction. Upon

entering the sick chamber, I beheld an unforgettable scene. My illustrious colleague was lying prostrated in bed and overwhelmed by a violent septic fever. Next to him stood a nurse, calm and thoughtful but whose expression denoted a profound anxiety. As she turned to me, I recognized her Majesty, the Queen of the Belgians! What better praise could be given to surgery than this humble and touching tribute of a noble Queen to a surgeon, a democrat by birth, but a king in his own profession?"

* * *

In referring so often and so insistently to internationalism as one of the dominant traits of our professional character, I wish to be understood as not advocating that cosmopolitanism with which it is so often confused. The cosmopolitanism of the philosophers and rationalists of the eighteenth century, which is allied to socialism and communism, is not to be confused with the internationalism that I have in mind. That cosmopolitanism carried with it a decrying of local and national distinctions and of patriotism. The unit of its ideal world state was the individual or a social class, and not the nationality or the national state.

Internationalism, as I understand it, presupposes a prime loyalty of the individual to his national state, a cherishing by him of his national language and his national traditions, a lively patriotism within him. The internationalist aims to build his world state with national blocks—as we see so well exemplified in the Swiss Republic, in the Union of South Africa, and here in your own Canada, where side by side with the French nationalism of Quebec and the British nationalism of, say, Ontario, exists a common Canadian patriotism. To urge the propagation of internationalism is not to deny patriotism; rather, it is to purify and exalt it through patriotism. Patriotism and love of one's country is a peculiar natural and ennobling expression of man's primitive sentiments of loyalty (Haynes).

In one of the most inspiring addresses of Sir William Osler, delivered in this very city, 24 years ago ("Chauvinism in Medicine"), that splendid humanist, after delivering a most eloquent invective against the evils of nationalism, said: "Breathes there a man with his soul so dead that it does not glow at the thought of what the men of his blood have done and suffered to make his country what it is? There is room, plenty of room for proper pride of land and birth. What I inveigh against is the present spirit of intolerance, conceived in distrust and bred in ignorance, that makes the mental attitude perennially

antagonistic, even bitterly antagonistic, to everything foreign; that subordinates everywhere the race to the nation, forgetting the higher claims of human brotherhood."

The function of internationalism in medicine and surgery is to favor the exchange of ideas between medical men of different nationalities for the good of all. This, as we have said, is not incompatible with true patriotism which urges the production of what is best in the race and in the nation, not for purely selfish nationalistic consumption but for the universal good.

This concept of scientific patriotism is in perfect harmony with the humanizing character of modern, intellectual internationalism. The spur of nationalism is, or should be, used to speed the progress of the world, without inflicting on humanity any of the gashes or the pernicious and destructive exhibitions of a narrow, egotistic, and exclusive nationalism. If we understand patriotism in surgery, as it is known in the sciences and arts—as a pride in the glory of the greatest achievement for one's own country and race in the interest of a common profession and of a common humanity—it behooves us to nourish and cultivate this type of patriotic sentiment as a national asset of the greatest value. From this point of view, American surgeons have shown no lack of patriotism, and the same spirit that led the American people to put in motion over four millions of men and women and to actually sacrifice over half a million of its best manhood in the cause of human freedom, can be trusted to enlist its best energies to accomplish for humanity in Peace all that it did in War! The American College of Surgeons by virtue of its fusion with Canada, and through the extension of its fellowship to the Latin-American countries of Central and South America, is truly an international organization.

Its ambition is to make the American surgeon worthy of the honor of his title, worthy of the trust reposed upon him by his people, and worthy of the respect and confidence of his professional fellows throughout the world.

In closing, I realize that I have consumed much of your time and probably more of your patience, in what may appear to many of you a purely academic dissertation. It is difficult, if not impossible, in speaking of professional harmony, fraternalism, and of international amity, to avoid the commonplaces or repetitions of sentiments that are now so worn by usage that they have become demoded through their very antiquity.

While freely confessing all this, I, none the less, venture upon another transgression by holding

before you one of the oldest gems of antique thought which, in spite of the twenty-one centuries that it has been circulating around the world, retains all the resplendent humanistic significance that it possessed when it first emanated from the mind of a poet and philosopher (Terence) who, moved by the promptings of the international spirit, first gave it expression: "Homo sum, nil humanum a me alienum puto" (I am a man and nothing human can be foreign to me), which I would adapt to this occasion by saying: I am a surgeon and nothing human can be foreign to me.

To the younger men, here present, whose idealism is still aflame and has not yet begun to flicker in the gusts of Time, I commend this ancient legacy as a motto worthy of a profession dedicated to the service of humanity.

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And now that my task is done, allow me, my dear Fellows, to renew the expression of my grateful appreciation of the signal honor conferred upon me when elevated to the presidency of this College one year ago.

It has been a great privilege to have been allowed to watch at close range the working of the machinery which is moving this institution in its onward march to the fulfillment of its purposes, its aims, and its destinies. Though relieved of all the drudgery of its administration, and a very large measure of its executive functions, by your Executive Committee, by the co-operation of the distinguished members of the Board of Regents and by the sleepless watchfulness of our Director General, the presidency of this College is not altogether free from cares and responsibilities. The dignity of the office and the numerous calls that come from every quarter of the compass to represent the College at medical meetings throughout the country, add no little weight to the gilded mantle that rests upon the presidential shoulders. The greatest satisfaction that I experience at the close of my incumbency lies in the unquestionable evidence of the progress accomplished in the 12 months that we have traveled together.

The dedication and inauguration of the Murphy Memorial to the uses and purposes of the College, celebrated last June with becoming dignity and solemnity, mark an event of transcendent importance to the College. The benefits that will accrue from the acquisition of this wonderfully beautiful and inspiring building, cannot be exaggerated. The Murphy Memorial will stand for many years to come,—I dare not say *ages*, as there is nothing fixed or limited in the ambitions and ever expanding horizon of our profession, or of this

enterprising country of ours—as a towering center of the organized activities of the surgical profession resident in the Western hemisphere.

We must also recognize the fact that this noble edifice, erected largely by public subscription in memory of the services to humanity rendered by one of the greatest members of our guild, marks an epoch in the relations of the medical profession and the public. To quote a sentiment expressed at the dedication: "The Murphy Memorial testifies in mute but unmistakable terms that the soul of surgery has found its place in the heart of humanity."

During the past 12 months our Fellowship has very appreciably increased. The sectional meetings are steadily increasing in value and popularity. The program of hospital standardization has expanded beyond the shores of America to engage in international service, as is fully attested by the admirable report of the Director of the Hospital Activities, recently returned from a survey of the hospitals of New Zealand and Australia.

I need not refer to the many evidences of the progress in hospital and professional welfare that the College can legitimately claim to its credit in the course of last year's advance, as these will be made the subject of a detailed report by our Director General.

I will, therefore, go no further in these remarks which have for their chief object to express gratification at the work done and my personal thankfulness to our distinguished founder and general director, Dr. Martin, and his associates, for their invaluable and sympathetic co-operation.

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And now, a last word, that is to express my delight in transferring the insignia and prerogatives of my office to a successor who so superlatively meets the requirements of this high office and of this particular occasion. A distinguished surgeon, eminent in his chosen specialty, renowned teacher of gynecology at McGill and gynecologist to the Victoria Hospital, a native of Canada and a life resident of Montreal—he is honored at home and abroad. A charter fellow of the College, a close student of its organization and purpose, a brilliant contributor to its history and a faithful collaborator in its enterprises, a cultured and accomplished gentleman—he has endeared himself to his associates and Fellows, and is pre-eminently fitted to symbolize the international spirit that animates this College and to tighten the ties of kinship and affection that bind us to the surgeons of Canada.

I have the honor to present Dr. Walter W. Chipman, President of the American College of Surgeons.