

SIXTH CONVOCATION

THE Sixth Convocation of the American College of Surgeons was held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, October 26, 1917. The occasion was the greatest medical-military gathering ever held on this continent. Hundreds of medical officers from the Army and from the Navy, both from the United States and Canada, were present on leave. Honorary Fellowships were conferred upon Surgeon General William C. Braisted, United States Navy; Surgeon General Rupert Blue, United States Public Health Service; Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Consulting Surgeon, British Army Medical Service; Colonel Charles U. Derclé, Repre-

sentative of the Medical Department, French Army, and Colonel Thomas H. Goodwin, C.M.G., Representative of the Director General, British Army Medical Service. Three hundred thirteen candidates were admitted to Fellowship. The Fellowship Address was delivered by Sir Berkeley Moynihan who was delegated by Sir Alfred Keogh, Director General of the British Army Medical Service, to bring to the College from England and from the allied lines a message on this occasion. Dr. George W. Crile, President of the College, presided.

The invocation was given by Father C. B. Moulinier, S. J., Milwaukee.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

DR. GEORGE W. CRILE

This is a new and strange setting for the Convocation of the American College of Surgeons. We are in war — but war is only a part of that in which we are involved — we are in a revolution of the moral, social, educational and political systems of the great divisions of the human race.

War is the expression of one phase of this fateful revolution. We should now pause and examine into our new duties and responsibilities. If we are to survive this struggle and remain free, the people of the United States must strengthen the foundation and augment the super-structure of our civilization. We, the American College of Surgeons, are a part — an important part — of both the foundation and the super-structure.

We have it in our power to evolve an ideal hospital organization, to raise the standard of the 7,500 hospitals in the United States. How well our earnest and forceful Director, Mr. Bowman, has performed his duty was shown by the large and enthusiastic meetings of Friday and Saturday. The spirit of those meetings

was the standardization that we desire. We have it in our power to increase the output of new and useful knowledge by our medical schools and hospitals; to develop a new generation of better surgeons; to bring more fully this College into the National Defense in peace as well as in war. The source of the influence of the College upon medical schools and hospitals is found in the method by which we ascertain the qualifications of a candidate and in the terms of the contract required for admission to fellowship. We examine the career of our candidate from the period of his pre-medical preparation to the moment of his admission to membership in the American College of Surgeons. In other words, ten years of his life are laid upon the table and examined. The College lays its hand on the shoulder of the neophyte long before he is a candidate for Fellowship, for we require that the medical education and the hospital experience of our candidates be acquired in accredited institutions. Our desire is to guide the medical student to Fellowship,

in other words, to a successful career. Our duty is to create today the College of tomorrow.

Let me express again our sentiments of high regard and abiding confidence in the work and wisdom of the Public Health Service and of the Surgeons General of the Army and of the Navy, and pause to pay a tribute to that far-seeing and patriotic officer of this College who has given his supreme talents of organization to the cause of war; who stands as the first representative of medicine in an advisory cabinet position. He has ascended to the higher realms of statesmanship where he is rendering a great national service.

To the Council of National Defense, through the officers here present, let us consecrate anew our resources and ourselves to the National cause. Through you, Colonel Dercle, and through you, Colonel Goodwin, let us offer to the great nations you represent the resources and personnel of this College, not only in this time of war, but also in the time of peace that will follow victory.

To my fellow members of the College, may I address a personal word? If you are thinking of offering your services to our Allies, let me assure you from my own personal experience that not only will you serve yourself and your country, not only will you enjoy unparalleled opportunities for surgical profit, not only will you be received by our Allies as brothers, but you will internationalize yourselves and establish the imperishable bonds that are wrought by fighting a common cause, by enduring common dangers. It matters not whether we are behind the British, behind the Italian, behind the Russian lines, or behind our own lines. Whatever our position, we are serving ourselves. Let the Fellows of this College give support to whatever the German Army is opposed to. Let it be to the everlasting honor of our Corps that every name on the Roll of Fellowship in the College will be on the roll of duty somewhere in the far-flung battle lines; thus supporting the cause of humanity in this hour of peril.