

1927

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

### PROCTOLOGY

WILLIAM H. KIGER, M. D., F. A. C. S.  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

I want to thank the members of this association and assure them of my grateful appreciation of the honor of being allowed to preside at this, the twenty-eighth annual session of this organization. I have a few suggestions to make "for the good of the order," but as they cannot be discussed here, will defer them until later. You have succeeded in building a splendid organization and the society is to be congratulated in many ways and for many things. But if we relax in vigilance it might yet be overthrown, and its power to do good lost. The reason it has stood the test so long and so well is that it was begun and built on a firm foundation. If you will revert back to its incipency you will be at once reminded that in its very beginning there were men of reputation and ability in the lead, most of whom have been called away but have left their impress with us. Let us at least emulate their example and follow their advice. Watch, I beg of you the outposts, least those who are not worthy may slip the 'non-attention' guard. It is easy for an objectional sheep to enter the fold of a thousand spotless ones, but it would be difficult to get rid of him. Remember too, that it is *quality* we want, and not quantity. The former will build us up, the latter will tear us down. It is to be regretted that there is no medical school to educate and qualify students for the practice of Proctology, so it behooves us to keep a strict outlook to protect ourselves from an invasion of the unqualified. Let us seek out the most competent, and admit only those that we know to be fit. The reputations that our co-workers in the specialty have made, with some material evidence of success, is still alluring and tempting to those seeking advance. Let our requirements, then, be befitting of our calling. Don't encumber the society with dross material, however slowly it may appear to grow.

There is another matter to which I wish to call your attention. It is of your duty to attend and contribute to the Section on Gastro-Enterology and Proctology of the American Medical Association.

Some of you may remember with what difficulty it was that we gained recognition by the American Medical Association, and how dilatory the movement to create a Section for us. Now that this is attained, let us prove our worthiness in every way possible. That society has on different occasions, shown their confidence in individual members of our society. From our ranks have been drawn many officers for that association. You will remember that our Brother, Doctor Dwite Murray, was speaker of the House of Delegates when he died. Let us then show our allegiance to that body on any and all occasions.

We should never forget although we are limited to a specialty, that we are all-around doctors. In going over the country I have been surprised to learn that some of our members were content to be known as 'Proctologists,' and took no interest in any other organization. Are we all as attentive to our County Society as we should be? Are each and all of us members of the College of Surgeons? (Do we take the proper interest in our Board of Health?) It is with great satisfaction that I sometimes read of one of our number who has been elected to preside over his County (or State) Society, and it is with pride that I read of a member occupying a chair in some reputable medical college. So you see that the field is a very broad and important one.

I scarcely know how to advise you when it comes to politics. Medical education and many other things that come before a State Legislature, requires the scrutiny of the medical profession. Surely we must take some interest in politics, if for nothing else than to help reform their organizations. Men in our profession are proverbially lax in their business affairs and hence seldom acquire much wealth. In these days of high prices for everything, we cannot afford to disregard so vital a matter as laying up for old age demands, or for the demands of the family. Indeed, other men of thrift who may patronize you, will view your laxness in business matters as worthy only of condemnation. I hope to see the day when every State in the Union will have a fit representative in the society, and as a whole a representation of which we will be proud. This can only be attained by keeping close scrutiny upon those we admit to membership.

Let me hope that this meeting will be a profitable one in every way, and that when we return to our homes we will look back at it as being one of the most pleasant, as well as profitable meetings that the Society has ever held.

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