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THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMY IN THE CITY AND THE NATION*

GEORGE BAEHR

President, The New York Academy of Medicine

THIS assembly of the Fellowship and the friends of The New York Academy of Medicine on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary is gratifying evidence of your appreciation of the Academy's place in the life of the City and of the Nation. It would be regrettable if the high esteem in which the Academy is held were based today in too large a measure upon the things that meet the eye, our magnificent edifice on Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street with its impressive meeting halls and conference rooms, our great medical library, or even upon the high professional and scientific level of the Academy's Fellowship. These are delightful advantages to contemplate and enjoy. But we, Fellows of the Academy, should look upon them rather as symbols of the serious heritage of public responsibility which has been handed on to us by our predecessors over this century.

From small beginnings the Academy has grown through the years to be an indispensable instrument of American medicine. Although its name identifies it with a City, this has become more an indication of its location, for its educational and cultural influences extend through-

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out the Nation and even across the seas. Its influence in public health and in the advancement of scientific progress has contributed no small part to the present high standards of medicine in this country. The medical library, one of the largest and most useful in the world, and, in this country, exceeded only by that of the Surgeon General in Washington, now serves six times as many readers as his or, perhaps, any other medical library.

Over these one hundred years, the ideals, the toil and the savings of many distinguished Fellows have been contributed to keep alive the flame of inspiration of the Founders of the Academy through long periods of discouragement. It was their devotion to the public interest over the first three-fourths of a century which eventually won the confidence of the great philanthropic foundations, the Carnegie Corporation and the Rockefeller Foundation and persuaded these and other lay benefactors to come to our assistance in 1923 and help us reach the goal which we celebrate today.

As the fortieth president of the Academy, I shall, therefore, take advantage of this occasion to turn back the pages of history for a few moments in order to review the social and scientific forces at work in the world a century ago, which impelled its Founders to establish this institution. In endeavoring to reconstruct a picture of the times and the influences which motivated the Founders, I am assisted in no small measure by the material which has been assembled during the last two years by Dr. Philip Van Ingen in preparation for a volume on the History of The New York Academy of Medicine, which is to be published in this Centennial year. On behalf of the officers and the Council of the Academy, I gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to Dr. Van Ingen for the arduous task which he has generously undertaken.

You will recall that the first half of the nineteenth century was characterized by extraordinarily rapid changes in the pattern of American life. Before the year 1800, our country had been a land of farms and hamlets for more than 150 years, and it was the ambition of Jefferson that we should continue to be forever "a nation of husbandmen." Before the end of his second term as President, Jefferson had already revised his views on industrialism under the pressure of changing exigencies. The Embargo of 1807 was followed by a succession of events, the British blockade during the War of 1812, and the subsequent protective tariff, which stimulated industrial undertakings along the Atlan-

tic Coast and greatly accelerated the growth of cities.

The rapidly changing order of the American scene is revealed by the fact that the number of persons engaged in manufactures, and also the number of city dwellers, increased 127 per cent in the twenty years between 1820 and 1840. In 1820, according to Schlesinger, only 5 per cent of the people of this country lived in communities of eight thousand or over; by 1840 the percentage had almost doubled despite the fact that the great drive to the West was helping to preserve the preponderance of agriculture. This wide dispersal of rural populations made conditions throughout the country unfavorable for any close association of physicians, and under this handicap the primitive medical practice of the time, with some notable exceptions such as Mac Dowell, Beaumont and Morton, remained a reflection of the vapid theorizing of the eighteenth century.

In contrast, the rapidly expanding business communities enjoyed the vital advantage of compactness and unity. The new economic life stimulated the establishment of new institutions not only for banking and business but also for general education and medicine. In the growing cities, some of the physicians and surgeons had derived part of their learning and inspiration from the great medical centers of Europe and the British Isles, under such medical pioneers as Louis, Laennec, Dupuytren and Velpeau in France, and Graves, Stokes, Bright, Addison, Hodgkin and Sir Astley Cooper in England, Scotland and Ireland. It is therefore comprehensible that increasing numbers of physicians followed their ambitious lay friends during the early part of the century and forsook rural life for the greater financial and cultural rewards to be found in the rapidly developing urban areas.

These turbulent times witnessed the flowering of American literature, the struggle for public schools, the beginning of the movement for woman's rights and other important humanitarian crusades. The growing intellectual demands of the country are reflected by the fact that in the brief span of twenty years betwen 1820 and 1840, 87 private colleges and 15 state universities were founded. In the year 1800, there were as yet only 5 good medical schools in the entire country, two of them in New York City. Although the number increased rapidly by 1847, inferior or irregular medical schools and medical cults increased disproportionately during this period. Improvement in the general educational level of physicians was further retarded by the fact that the

issuance of a license to practice medicine was the privilege of medical schools. Many were hardly more than finishing schools designed to complete a medical apprenticeship begun under a preceptor. As a result, medical cults and quackery flourished bountifully. In view of the many reform movements of the times, it is, therefore, not surprising that medical leaders in 1846-47 should also have felt the need for decisive action to clear away the debris of intellectual disorder within their ranks and prepare the way for the promising scientific developments which already loomed on the horizon but were not yet clearly visible.

By 1847, American surgeons had become noted for their skill, and there were already promising evidence of Yankee ingenuity in the medical field. Beaumont had made his studies on human gastric physiology in 1825 and ether had been introduced for general anesthesia in Boston in 1846. As the Founders of the Academy perhaps did not realize, 1847 was the momentous year of the publication of Helmholtz' work on the Conservation of Energy wherein was established the First Law of Thermodynamics. This principle, as subsequently extended by the great American, Willard Gibbs, was to make biology and medicine a branch of chemistry and physics. Darwin was as yet only laying the groundwork for the Origin of Species (1859) and Pasteur was beginning to advance slowly and laboriously through crystallography and fermentation to his momentous discoveries in bacteriology, immunology and sanitation.

The first half of the nineteenth century was also the time when Edwin Chadwick, administrator of the Poor Laws of Great Britain, was "making the welkin ring" with his insistent demands that steps be taken by government to prevent the recurring epidemics of disease. It was evident to him that poverty could in large part be prevented by reducing disease and mortality. By 1840, he had finally stimulated the public authorities of Great Britain to action and in 1848, the year after the founding of our Academy, he became the head of the first Board of Health. Chadwick's greatest contribution was his enunciation of the principle that public health measures for the control of disease, unlike the Poor Laws, must be applied for the benefit of all the people. I have no doubt that the great voice of Edwin Chadwick was heard across the seas, and that it played its part in arousing the obvious concern of the young Academy with problems of public health and, more especially, the control of epidemic diseases even though the causes were

unknown at that time and the methods of their transmission were still the subject of bitter controversy.

The same forces and in fact some of the same medical leaders who directed the founding of the Academy were responsible for the almost simultaneous organization of the American Medical Association. In both instances the compelling motives were the need for higher standards of medical education and licensure and for the elimination of charlatanism by the adoption of a code of medical ethics and by public education. The first preliminary meeting for the establishment of a national medical association was held in this City in 1846 at the New York University Medical College under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward Delafield. It was resolved to hold a convention in Philadelphia the following year. In that convention which established the American Medical Association, the newly organized New York Academy of Medicine was represented by the largest delegation, 16 members out of a total of 78 delegates. Our delegation included such men as Delafield, Stearns, Mott, and the Academy's energetic secretary, Campbell Stewart. Not only did the primary incentive for the organization of the American Medical Association come from the State of New York, but at that first official assembly of the Association in Philadelphia in April 1847, the influence of the Academy's 16 representatives was as great as that of the delegates from any of the State Medical Societies or medical colleges.

The founding of the Academy a hundred years ago was inspired by the need for an independent institution in which physicians of high professional standards could find opportunities for mutual improvement and for public service. On November 18, 1846, a sumptuous dinner was held in an elegant saloon at 579 Broadway under the chairmanship of the venerable Dr. Delafield to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men. The Society is still active today and its present officers are here tonight to join us in our Centennial celebration. Toward the end of that dinner in the Fall of 1846, being well refreshed with excellent food and wine, the famous surgeon, Dr. Valentine Mott, President of the New York University Medical College, rose and proposed a toast to the older College of Physicians and Surgeons. Not to be outdone, the President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Alexander M. Stevens, rose to return the compliment. Warming up to the occasion, he ended a stirring

address by urging the establishment of a medical hall with ample meeting rooms and a library which would be independent of the medical schools and hospitals and would bring together eminent members of the profession for the purpose of improving the deplorable standards of medical education and medical practice of the time.

After the dinner, forty or more physicians remained behind to discuss these exciting proposals. Dr. John Stearns was voted into the chair, and before this rump meeting adjourned, a committee consisting of Dr. Mott, Dr. Stevens and Dr. Isaac Wood was instructed to call a general meeting of the profession at the Lyceum of Natural History at 561 Broadway "to establish an Academy of Medicine and Surgery and to provide a permanent place for its meetings." Within a few weeks, 185 physicians had enrolled as Founders and at the first formal meeting at the Lyceum on January 13, 1847, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, the name New York Academy of Medicine was approved and Dr. John Stearns was elected as the first president. In his inaugural address at the first Stated Meeting of the Academy on February 3rd, Dr. Stearns stated that the purposes of the new institution were "to elevate the standards of medical education, to exclude from our ranks all ignorant pretenders, to enlighten the public mind on the subject of medicine and its collateral branches of science and to take all necessary means to promote the honor, the dignity, the respectability and the usefulness of the medical profession."

In contrast with the high and noble spirit of the enthusiastic Founders, the first home of the Academy was only a rented room over a coal yard at 175 Wooster Street. In spite of an imposing name, Convention Hall, it had space neither for a library nor for the monthly Stated Meetings of the Fellowship. So, during the first 28 years large meetings of the Fellows were held at first at Lyceum Hall on Broadway, for 18 years (1850-1868) in the small Chapel of New York University on Washington Square, and, toward the end of that period, in the lower lecture room of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at 23rd Street and Fourth Avenue.

The medical library, one of the original proposals of Dr. Stevens, was not forgotten. In fact, it was established ceremoniously at the first meeting of the Academy on January 13, 1847 when Dr. Isaac Wood formally presented a copy of Paine's Commentaries in three volumes as the first contribution to the new library. From this small acorn grew

the great oak, but not without weathering many a storm.

At first, the books were kept in the home of the Fellow who had been elected librarian, Dr. Thomas Cock. After Dr. Cock had patiently given the library shelter for 11 years, it was moved for a time to a room adjacent to the library of New York University. But during the Civil War (1865) when the finances of the Academy had sunk almost to insolvency, an increase in the room rent from $7.50 to $12 a month promptly drove the library back to the home of the new librarian, Dr. John Henry Hinton. It was not until 1875 that Fellows and their friends came to the rescue and assisted the Academy in the purchase and remodelling of the first of its own buildings at 12 West 31 Street. Here, the library was housed properly along the walls of the new meeting hall, and its dominant position is indicated by the fact that the new auditorium was named Library Hall.

At first, the work of the Academy, even scientific work, was done through reference to special committees. During the first year, the Academy's concern was largely devoted to the protection of human life and welfare. A review of the activities of the year 1847 is most impressive. Quite appropriately, the very first committee was appointed to procure books for the library, another to investigate and report upon the use of sulfuric ether to mitigate pain in surgical operations and to make experiments on animals; still other committees were appointed in this year to investigate and report upon the subject of sewerage, to carry out investigation on an epidemic of typhus fever, to investigate the importation of adulterated and impure drugs, and (sic!) to study and report upon "the effects upon the human economy of milk from kine tuberculously or otherwise diseased from improper food or confined situations in (these) milk establishments." Although the cause of bovine tuberculosis was still a mystery to the good Founders of the Academy, they were already keenly aware of the hazard to human life involved in the consumption of milk from tuberculous and otherwise diseased cows and intended to do something about it. From these activities of the first year, it is clearly evident that the Founders were among the enlightened medical men of their time. That they were also men of courage and vision is indicated by their very first public actions, a memorial sent to the State Legislature urging the passage of a law for registration of births, deaths and marriages, another to the Congress urging legislation to control the importation of impure drugs, a third to

the State Legislature demanding State responsibility for the care of the feeble-minded.

In January 1848, a Committee on Public Health was appointed to study cholera and other epidemic diseases and to supervise the sanitary condition of the City. In subsequent years came action urging the State to separate medical teaching from medical licensure (1849) and another advocating the passage of a State law which would require that all medical schools be connected with hospitals (1850). There were annual memorials to the Congress which stressed the importance of vital statistics and urged that they be incorporated in the forthcoming Census. This was ultimately accomplished and, although the gathering of the information was imperfect, it represented the first attempt by the federal government to compile any vital statistics. The Academy was also instrumental in collaboration with the medical colleges in eliminating the practice of "body snatching" by aiding passage by the State Legislature in 1851 of the so-called Anatomical Bill which authorized human dissection.

During these early years, scientific papers were read at some of the monthly Stated Meetings, on such subjects as the treatment of ununited fractures, on "Revelations of the Microscope," and upon such extremely controversial matters of the day as the causes of inflammation and the relation of cleanliness of the physician to puerperal fever. On some of these subjects, long, heated discussions were sometimes continued through several successive monthly meetings. In 1850, the work of the Academy was officially subdivided among seven scientific committees but five years later, upon the recommendation of Dr. James Anderson, the By-Laws were again amended and the scientific work of the Academy was divided for the first time into Sections. The present sectional organization of the Academy is therefore 92 years old.

Ten years after it was founded (1857), the Academy made its first major contribution to the reduction of the enormous infant mortality of the time by studying the methods of production and the lasting qualities of concentrated milk. It found them satisfactory and endorsed concentrated milk as a safe and a valuable substitute for the extremely hazardous loose milk of that day and age. In 1861, the Academy called together the first sanitary convention to obtain reform of the laws pertaining to public health in this City and of their administration. This was only the beginning of a long series of annual efforts by the Academy, which

culminated in 1866 in the establishment of a Metropolitan Board of Health, the precursor of our modern Department of Health. Two of the Fellows of the Academy, Willard Parker and John O. Stone, served as the first Commissioners. In later years, when the City Department of Health was established, Commissioners of Health were repeatedly drawn from the Fellowship of the Academy, especially in times of crisis, the most distinguished being Griscom, Bryant, Goldwater, Emerson, and Biggs who served as General Medical Expert. In 1913, Biggs was largely responsible for rewriting the Public Health Laws of the State, which have since been copied by many other States. When the modern State Health Department was established in 1913, he became its first Commissioner, with Dr. Linsly R. Williams, later to be the first Director of the Academy, as his able Deputy.

It can be said with complete justice that Fellows of the Academy played leading roles in the creation in New York State of modern health services which became models for the country, and that the Academy as an institution has been a consistently powerful force in the organization and work of many governmental and voluntary health agencies, local and national, and in their early utilization of new discoveries in the medical sciences for the control of disease and the reduction of mortality. This has been increasingly true since the reestablishment of the Academy's Committee on Public Health Relations 36 years ago, under the Chairmanship of the late Dr. Charles A. Dana. Dr. James Alexander Miller was a charter member of that Committee and has been its Chairman for twelve years. Dr. E. H. L. Corwin has served continuously as its efficient Executive Secretary from the day it started 36 years ago. Under Dr. Miller and Dr. Corwin, the Committee has exercised a great creative influence in the Public Health history of this country. Its recent volume on Preventive Medicine in Modern Medical Practice is used by students in schools of medicine and of public health throughout the land. Its services are recorded in more than 900 reports and publications included in the current centennial exhibit on the History of the Academy in Room 21.

In 1876, the library was opened to the general public and from that time on, by agreement with the City, it has served as the medical part of the New York Public Library system. Later investigations by Academy committees led to improvements in the Croton water supply, in better methods of refuse disposal, in better State care of the insane,

and to at least some improvement of medico-legal testimony. In 1893, impelled by a serious cholera epidemic in the previous year, the Academy took the lead in initiating a successful nationwide movement to eliminate the ineffective quarantine responsibilities of commercially competing seaports and to establish for the first time a national quarantine service. It took years of effort before the Congress was persuaded to enact this obviously necessary legislation. Thirty-three years ago the Academy secured the passage of legislation which abolished the ancient but corrupt and inefficient system of coroners in the City of New York and on its recommendation, an Office of the Chief Medical Examiner consisting of qualified experts was established.

In 1930, in consequence of the inexcusably high maternal death rate, a three year study was begun by a subcommittee of the Committee on Public Health Relations with a paid field staff led by Dr. Ransom Hooker. The Department of Health promptly dispatched to the Academy a photostatic copy of the death certificate of every woman dying in childbirth, and an investigation was immediately instituted at the scene of the labor. The investigation included the family, the environmental conditions and the services of the attending physican, midwife, nurse, relatives and other persons who might have contributed to the result. After three years of patient work, it was found that two-thirds of all deaths in childbirth were preventable and that unnecessary interference or other medical errors by the attending physician was the most important factor in 45 per cent. The publication of these findings aroused a storm of violent criticism; medical societies and physicians in many parts of the country accused the Academy of injuring the reputation of the profession. Today, our county medical societies carefully review and censor the performance of the medical profession in this field. It is no mere coincidence that the maternal death rate dropped more than 66 per cent in the ten years immediately following the publication of the Academy's report. We in New York City can boast that today, about one-fifth as many mothers are lost in childbirth as 15 years ago. Under the influence of the new antibiotics, the decline in very recent years, is, of course, being accelerated. During the year 1946, there was a total of 152,736 live births in the City of New York, yet only 177 women died in childbirth from all causes. If this trend continues, childbirth may ultimately become safer than riding in an automobile or taking a bath!

In 1928, all national societies representing the various branches of medicine and all national governmental agencies concerned with the care of the sick were invited to assemble at the Academy for the purpose of establishing a National Conference on Nomenclature of Disease and preparing a Standard Nomenclature for use in hospitals and medical schools throughout the country. The work, which took 7 years to complete, was carried on within the Academy under its sponsorship, with funds made available to it by the Commonwealth Fund, the major life insurance companies and other philanthropic foundations. Since its publication the Standard Nomenclature of Disease has been adopted by medical schools and hospitals throughout the country and has had a profound influence upon the accuracy of medical terminology and of medical thinking. After the third edition had been issued, the American Medical Association graciously agreed to assume the responsibility for its continuing publication and revision.

In addition to these accomplishments, the medical provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act of the State were rewritten at the request of the Governor by a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Eugene Pool. Through the Academy's Committee on Medical Education, wider educational opportunities have been provided for the continuing education of practicing physicians of the City by weekly practical lectures and demonstrations, by the meetings of the eleven Sections of the Academy, and above all, by the Graduate Fortnight which each year has attracted several thousand physicians. The Academy also serves as the educational information center for visiting physicians from other parts of the country, from Latin America and from overseas. In these postwar years, a special placement center has been conducted for the thousands of medical veterans returning from the Armed Forces who seek fresh educational opportunities in the large voluntary and Municipal hospitals of this metropolis before resuming medical practice.

The Academy's Committee on Medical Information has served for years as the information center for the public on medical matters. During the last two decades it has had a significant influence upon the accuracy of medical reporting by the press and the radio. Its public information bureau and its informative Lectures to the Laity reach many thousands. They are conducted in the tradition of the first anniversary discourse of the Academy delivered by Dr. John W. Francis in the Broadway Tabernacle on November 10, 1847, which attracted an

audience of more than 2500 persons and can be regarded as the Academy's first Lecture to the Laity.

I cannot close without reference to the monumental labors during the past four years of the Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order under the indefatigable leadership of Dr. Malcolm Goodridge and of the Committee's versatile secretary, Dr. Iago Galdston. Within the last two years, the Committee has published a preliminary series of 10 monographs which cover almost all aspects of contemporary problems of medical care. The work of this Committee, which included eminent non-medical and medical leaders, has culminated this month in the publication of a volume embodying its Report and Recommendations on the changes in medical practice and medical education and in the methods of paying for medical care which will be required to make the benefits of modern preventive and curative medicine available to all families of low income. This volume, published by the Commonwealth Fund, is a timely document, for it points the way to far reaching changes which can be made without jeopardizing the high level of performance achieved by American medicine during the last three decades. In my opinion, the work of the Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order represents the pinnacle of the Academy's achievements. Its publication in this Centennial year is a happy and appropriate coincidence.

It should also be a source of pride to the Fellowship that the Secretariat of the World Health Organization of United Nations accepted the hospitality of the Academy last summer immediately following its establishment by a conference of delegates from seventy nations of the world. During the summer and fall of 1946 we were privileged to provide space for the staff of the Interim Commission until permanent headquarters became available. The Academy has therefore had the honor of being the first home of the World Health Organization of United Nations.

It is now important that the Fellowship arrive at an understanding concerning the main lines of activity along which the work of the Academy is hereafter to advance. The Library must maintain its present position as the most useful and influential depository of medical and related scientific literature in the world. This will require the immediate erection of a new building for additional book stacks and reference files, for the Library is now bursting its seams. The overworked library staff must also be materially expanded if the efficiency of their services

to the Fellows and to the public is ever again to equal that of the prewar period. These two objectives will require additions to our present building fund and a substantial increase in endowment. I would remind you that the income from annual dues of the Fellowship at present provides only one-fifth of the operating budget of the Academy and that recent increases in salaries, chiefly of the lowest paid workers, will in 1947, unbalance the rigidly restricted budget by $90,000. To meet these needs, we are entirely dependent upon the generosity of an informed public as well as of the Fellowship.

The second most important future activity of the Academy is in the field of medical education. The continuing education of physicians is a major concern of the Academy, not of the medical schools which are already heavily burdened with undergraduate medical education and with graduate training in the specialties. The great system of voluntary and municipal hospitals of New York at present provides almost one-fifth of all the grade A interneships and residencies of the country. In collaboration with the five medical schools of the City, the Academy will serve as the centralizing agency and will, I hope, assume an even more important role than heretofore in improving the educational curricula of interne and residency training. The interneship and residency period should provide the young physician with an educational and scientific environment in which he can attain his maximum professional and scientific growth. Through its influence upon the hospitals, almost all of whose senior staff members are Fellows, the Academy can in this manner materially influence the future level of medical practice.

The Academy with its exceptional physical and intellectual resources is strategically located in this metropolis to assume, also, an even greater measure of responsibility in the future than in the past for elevating the general level of medical practice through a comprehensive program of continuing education which must follow the interneship and residency training of all physicians until the end of their lives. During the next years, the Academy proposes to weld together the resources of the 65 major hospitals of this great City so as to make it the center of medical education for the physicians of this Nation and of the world. Under the plan we have in mind, New York will become the medical capital as it is already the political capital of the world.

In these educational activities, the eleven clinical and scientific Sections of the Academy must play a more important part than in the past,

each for its own specialty of medicine and surgery. In addition, it will probably be necessary to organize several new Sections devoted to the related basic sciences or to accomplish a closer working relationship with some of the affiliated scientific societies, many of which now meet in the Academy building. At the request of a score of eminent scientists, the Council of the Academy is at present considering the establishment of a new Section on Microbiology which will encompass bacteriology, immunology, parasitology, virology and chemotherapy.

In extending its teaching activities in this manner, the Academy will be required to expand its physical facilities by constructing an addition to the east. This building is to replace the three adjacent tenements on 103rd Street, which we now own. The plans for this extension have been drawn by Mr. Edwin A. Salmon, Chairman of the City Planning Commission. The architectural rendering will be exhibited during March and April in the Academy's Centennial Exhibit on Hospitals in Room A. The proposed exhibit halls will be devoted to visual education through the medium of medical exhibits on matters of vital current importance. These exhibits will be frequently replaced with new material illustrating the most recent advances in medicine and medical technology, and will supplement the didactic and bedside teaching throughout the city. The upper floors of this building are designed to house the staff of the Committee on Medical Education of the Academy through which a city-wide educational program can be administered. In addition to exhibits for the instruction of physicians, the building will also be used from time to time throughout the year for exhibits designed for the education of the general public. The execution of these plans and the erection of the proposed addition will be undertaken as soon as the necessary funds become available for construction of the new addition and for its maintenance. It will require $500,000 for the building and the addition of $1,000,000 to the Academy's endowment.

A third new activity of the Academy has also been approved by the Council. It involves a continuing study of social and environmental factors responsible for illness and mortality, and of the changes in methods of medical practice and medical education which may be necessary before the full benefits of modern curative and preventive medicine can be made available to all the people. With the authorization of the Council, I shall shortly appoint a new Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order for this purpose. This Committee will also concern

itself with preventive psychiatry, social pathology and social medicine, a field which promises to reveal new and ever broader opportunities for public service. Because the terms social pathology and social medicine are still generally misunderstood in this country, we have persuaded Professor John A. Ryle to visit us from across the seas to give us a definition of their meaning and a better understanding of their scope.

A recital of the names of former officers and Fellows who have served the Academy would read like a succession of pages out of the medical history of the country. Following John Stearns, the early presidents included John W. Francis, Valentine Mott, Isaac Wood, Alexander H. Stevens, Thomas Cock, Joseph M. Smith, Willard Parker, John Batchelder, John Watson and James Anderson. After the Civil War came Austin Flint, Samuel S. Purple, B. Fordyce Barker and Abraham Jacobi; then Loomis, Roosa, Bryant and Janeway.

I shall not mention all the distinguished presidents of our own generation except to state that among others, it was Jacobi who saved the Academy during a crucial period 60 years ago when its continued existence was in jeopardy and it was Jacobi and Loomis who later were largely responsible for the erection of our third home on West 43 Street. In addition to Walter B. James, George David Stewart, Samuel A. Brown, it was Bryson Delavan, Arthur B. Duel and our first executive director, Linsly A. Williams who built the beautiful structure which we now occupy, and laid the paths to public service which we now follow. I grieve that Linsly is not with us tonight to share our joy in his accomplishments. Our building is his monument; our deeds will be the measure of our appreciation of his noble character and his life of service to human welfare. I must confess that his great spirit has long been my guide and inspiration.

To these men and to our own beloved Samuel Lambert, John Hartwell and Bernard Sachs, we stand forever indebted. It is with mingled emotions of affection and deep gratitude that, through my inadequate voice, the Fellowship here assembled acknowledges its debt to the past presidents of the Academy who are with us tonight, or are listening to this broadcast, Samuel A. Brown, Eugene Pool, James Alexander Miller, Malcolm Goodridge, Arthur Chace, and to our recent Director, the amiable and efficient Herbert Wilcox. I know that I echo your own feeling of profound admiration when in your name and as an expression of your appreciation, I pledge them our devotion to the aims and ideals of the Academy.