

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ITS ORIGIN, PROGRESS AND PURPOSE.¹

BOTH established usage and the by-laws of this association require the presiding officer to deliver annually an address touching such matters as he may deem of importance. In the early years of the association the president's address was devoted to an epitome of the progress of medical science in its various departments during the preceding year. Since distinguished orators are now selected annually to perform this important service, the president's address may be more appropriately directed to subjects relating to the general welfare of the profession and to the purposes for which this great organization was established.

The annual session of the American Medical Association is always an occasion of special moment and universal interest to the medical profession of America. That several thousand physicians from all sections of our broad country assemble annually for the advancement of medical science and the elevation of our profession is a splendid testimonial to the earnestness of professional achievement and aspiration. The occasion can not but command the respect of all who are concerned in the progress of science and the betterment of the human race. The spirit which pervades such an assemblage is the desire for improvement, for the increase of scientific re-

¹ President's address, at the fifty-sixth annual session of the American Medical Association at Portland, Oregon, July 11-14, 1905. From *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.