

SCIENCE

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ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE CLINICAL SCIENCES OF DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY¹

IN preparing this address some weeks ago, I had written the statement that the membership of this association had fortunately been spared by death from any diminution in its numbers during the past year; shortly before this meeting, however, the association has suffered the loss of two of its original members—Dr. John S. Billings and Dr. Francis P. Kinnicutt, and one of its associate members, Dr. Hugh A. Stewart.

We now enter upon the work of the twenty-eighth annual meeting. Each annual session begins with an address from the president, by by-law limited to half an hour, and by custom including, first, an expression of appreciation of the honor of presiding over the assembly, and, second, suggestions for the promotion of the welfare of the association and, more especially, for the adaptation of its functions to the ever-changing conditions of American medicine.

My first duty is, then, to give thanks. The president of the association would indeed be guilty of ingratitude were he to omit to thank his colleagues for the honor and distinction they confer upon him by his election. Even though the choice comes automatically in serial sequence to members of the council, to be chosen as this officer is an honor which an ambitious physician might well be willing to look forward to as a possible culminating event

¹ Address of the president before the Association of American Physicians, Washington, May 6, 1913.