

SCIENCE

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THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION FOR WAR¹

I FEEL greatly honored by the election to the position of president of the American Medical Association. I recognize not only the honor but also the responsibility of assuming the leadership of the organized medical profession of the country at this time. The war has made unusual and exacting demands on us. The government and the people are looking to us to furnish in this great emergency not only the necessary number of medical men for the Army and Navy, but also the highest degree of medical service and efficiency. This is proving to be a war not simply between well-organized armies but between efficiently organized nations. It is now clear that in order to win the war we must organize the entire nation in such a way that every man and woman must become a useful part of a great and powerful national military machine. No part of such a great national organization is more important than the medical profession, and on this, the opening evening of this great war meeting of American physicians, it is my purpose to address you on the organization of the medical profession for war.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

There are in the United States more than 145,000 men and women licensed in the various states to practise medicine. Of these more than 81,000 are members of the

¹ Part of the president's address by Arthur Dean Bevan, M.D., Chicago, before the American Medical Association at the Sixty-ninth Annual Session, Chicago, June, 1918. The address is printed in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.