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SCIENCE

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THE FUNCTIONS OF A WOMAN'S CLINIC¹

THIS title was suggested by Dr. Chipman when he did me the honor of inviting me to speak to you on this occasion.

I accepted the invitation with pleasure for three reasons: First, because Dr. Chipman has long been one of my very good friends, for whose medical attainments and personal qualities I have the highest respect and the greatest admiration; secondly, because I love to renew my associations with this great hospital and university where I feel more at home than anywhere else, except in Boston and my native city; and lastly because I have certain definite views concerning the functions of a woman's clinic and gladly embrace the opportunity to express them.

After you have inspected this imposing clinic which constitutes so great an addition to the facilities of the Royal Victoria Hospital and of McGill University, and which has been made possible by the generosity of the Provincial Government, of Sir Herbert Holt and of the Montreal Maternity Hospital, I feel sure that you will agree with me that the people of the Province of Quebec, and of Canada generally, are to be congratulated upon so visible a sign that its women can receive amid such surroundings the best possible care in their sufferings and ills; that McGill University must rejoice in the increased facilities which the clinic will afford for the instruction of its students and for the stimulation of research in obstetrics and gynecology; and that Dr. Chipman and his associates must exult in the fulfilment of their dreams for ideal surroundings in which to carry on their work. At the same time I venture to surmise that they are experiencing some searchings of conscience as to whether they, or any one else for that matter, will be able to attain, even to a slight extent, the ideals which all of us have in mind.

What is a university woman's clinic? You will note that I emphasize the word university, for therein lies the crux of the matter. I would define it as an adequately equipped hospital limited to the care of women suffering from the infirmities of their sex, and manned by highly trained physicians with uni-

¹ Read at the opening of the new Maternity Pavilion of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, October 29, 1926.

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