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MEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE CLINIC AND LABORATORY¹

By Dr. SIMON FLEXNER

DIRECTOR OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

It gives me very particular pleasure to address you—the graduating class, the trustees and faculty of this great institution—on an occasion which promises to be historic in the annals of medical education in the United States. Perhaps I may add that I feel highly honored, not only in having been invited to address you, but because of the close association in space of this institution and the Rockefeller Institute which immediately adjoins it to the south. I feel that I may take pride, which I hope is pardonable, in having had a very small share in determining the location of the New York Hospital and Cornell Medical College on its East River site.

I recall with great pleasure and satisfaction those early visits to the Rockefeller Institute of Mr. Edward W. Sheldon, the president of the New York

Hospital, and Mr. Payne Whitney, a great benefactor, to discuss the question of site, and my eagerness that they should choose the particular one on which this monumental building now stands. It is true that the site then considered was far less extensive than the one ultimately assembled, but that is an unimportant detail. What is significant is that your splendid institution and the Rockefeller Institute should have become close neighbors and that they may come to react on each other in a manner to insure the realization of the main object for which they have been founded, that is, the advancement of the science of medicine in its many aspects.

May I say that I am so circumstanced that I can now glance backwards over a forty-year stretch of time during which medical education in this country has progressed with constantly increasing speed? It happens that I entered the Johns Hopkins Hospital

¹ Commencement address, New York Hospital—Cornell Medical College Association, June 8, 1933.

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