

EDITORIAL
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS *

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My first duty, ladies and gentlemen, is to return you my thanks for the honor which you have conferred on me. Like spontaneity, it came as a great surprise; and I can assure you that it was wholly unexpected. My predecessors, whom I am so happy to number among my friends, have established precedents which it is difficult to emulate. Yet I gratefully accept the office, and promise to use its powers only to the credit of our society. In words resembling those of Lord Macaulay, the more I contemplate this our institution, the more convinced I am that it is sound at heart, and that its strength is the strength of youth. As time goes on, my successors will, I hope, be able to boast of glorious achievement; they will be able to vindicate that boast by citing a long list of eminent men, great masters of experimental science, great artists in clinical procedure. They will, I hope, mention with high honor some of my young friends who now hear me; and they will, I also hope, be able to add that their talents and learning were not wasted on selfish or ignoble objects, but were applied to the service of humanity.

There are innumerable sublime examples from which we may learn the advantages of continuing to seek better ways. I shall mention a few as being suitable to the occasion. The poet Abraham Cowley (1618-1667), himself an M.D., thought so well of investigation that he wrote several odes expressing the sense, in the words of Alexander Grosart, of the freedom with which Bacon had set free the study of nature, and the bondage from which he had delivered it. Here are some lines from Cowley's address "To the Royal Society,"—

The Orchard's open now, and free;
Bacon has broke that Sear-crow Deitie;
Come, enter, all that will,
Behold the rip'ned fruit, come gather now your Fill.

And—

From these and all long Errors of the Way,
In which our wandering Predecessors went;
And like th' old Hebrews many Years did stray,
In Desarts but of small extent,

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Bacon, like Moses, led us forth at last;
 The barren Wilderness he past,
 Did on the very Border stand
 Of the blest promis'd Land,
 And from the Mountain's Top of his Exalted Wit,
 Saw it himself, and shew'd us it.

And again—

With Courage and Success you the bold work begin;
 Your Cradle has not Idle bin:
 None e're but Hercules and you could be
 At five years Age worthy a History.
 And ne're did Fortune better yet
 Th' Historian to the Story fit:
 As you from all Old Errors free
 And purge the Body of Philosophy;
 So from all Modern Follies He
 Has vindicated Eloquence and Wit.

Archbishop Trench annotates—Compare with these lines, inferior indeed, but themselves remarkable, and showing how strongly Cowley felt on this matter; which occur in his “Ode to Dr. Harvey,” the discoverer of the circulation of the blood:—

Coy Nature, (which remain'd, though aged grown,
 A beauteous virgin still, enjoy'd by none,
 Nor seen unveil'd by any one)
 When *Harvey's* violent passion she did see,
 Began to tremble, and to flee,
 Took Sanctuary, like *Daphne*, in a tree:
 There *Daphne's* lover stopt, and thought it much
 The very Leaves of her to touch;
 But *Harvey*, our *Apollo*, stop't not so,
 Into the Bark, and root, he after her did goe:
 No smallest Fibres of a Plant,
 For which the eyebeam's Point doth sharpness want,
 His passage after her withstood.
 What should she do? through all the moving wood,
 Of Lives indow'd with sense, she took her flight;
Harvey persuades, and keeps her still in sight.
 But as the Deer long-hunted takes a flood,
 She leap't at last into the winding streams of blood;
 Of man's *Meander* all the Purple reaches made,
 'Till at the heart she stayd,
 Where turning head, and at a Bay,
 Thus, by well-purged ears, was she o're-heard to say.
 Here sure I shall be safe (sayd shee)
 None will be able sure to see
 This my retreat, but only hee,
 Who made both it and mee.

The heart of Man, what Art can e're reveal?
 A Wall Impervious between,
 Divides the very Parts within,
 And doth the Heart of man ev'n from it self conceal.
 She spoke, but e're she was aware,
Harvey was with her there,
 And held this slippery *Proteus* in a chain,
 'Till all her mighty *Mysteries* she desery'd;
 Which from his wit th' attempt before to hide,
 Was the first Thing that Nature did in vain.

Thus *Harvey* sought for truth in Truth's own Book.
 The creatures; which by God Himself was writ,
 And wisely thought 'twas fit,
 Not to read Comments only upon it,
 But on the original it self to look.

These Vseful secrets to his Pen we owe,
 And thousands more 'twas ready to bestow;
 Of which, a Barbarous War's unlearned Rage,
 Has robb'd the Ruin'd Age;
 O cruel loss! as if the Golden Fleece.
 With so much cost, and labour bought,
 And from afarr by a Great *Hero* Brought.
 Had sunk even in the Ports of *Greece*.
 O cursed warre! who can forgive thee this?
 Houses and towns may rise again,
 And ten times easier it is
 To re-build *Pauls*, than any work of his.

In 1881 Alexander Grosart wrote of these lines;—"Masterful is the in-working of ancient myth with present-day fact, Apollo and Daphne, and the Surgeon and his search after the 'circulation of the blood,' and onward, the Golden Fleece and re-building of St. Paul's, and grand the praise by the bare enumeration of what the great physician actually did, and electric the unexpected but inevitable denunciation of the 'Civil War' that interrupted such investigations and discourses; and then the pathos of the close. History, biography, science, art, patriotism, and cunningest march of rhythm are blended and interblended in this noble poem."

A most remarkable similarity of thought is seen in Longfellow's poem—"The Fiftieth Birthday of Agassiz, May 28, 1857":

And Nature, the old nurse, took
 The child upon her knee,

Saying: "Here is a story-book
Thy Father has written for thee."

"Come, wander with me," she said,
"Into regions yet untrud;
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God."

And he wandered away and away
With Nature, the dear old nurse,
Who sang to him night and day
The rhymes of the universe.

And whenever the way seemed long,
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song,
Or tell a more marvellous tale.

Cowley's praises have been sung by such men as Pope, Dryden, Addison, Charles Lamb, and William Cullen Bryant, the author of "Thanatopsis," whose sublime thought the anesthetist does well ominously to keep before him. Cowley's writings are priceless, and well worth our attention. One of his pindarique odes is a beautiful tribute to his compeer, Dr. Scarborough. It has been said of Cowley's great poem "To the Royal Society" that one may "mark the Baconian wisdom and weight of thought, the swift yet unmistakable characterising touch, the wealth of suggestive allusion, the splendid pomp of music, the involute yet firmly-bound structure, and the light of patriotic faith in and hope for the future of man, that lies all over it."

To these ineffably beautiful thoughts of Longfellow and of Cowley exemplary reference may be made, and I have mustered enough temerity to present them for the simple reason that their subjects are fraught with suggestion that we would do well to follow. They are brought forward in sincerity in order that we may be stimulated toward the pursuits of learning and science, and that then we may be encouraged continuously to apply our wisdom and insight to a living improvement of anesthesia. Such behavior on our part, in truth, would not be impertinent at any time, but it should be particularly apposite now in time of "cursed warre." Despite "Barbarous War's unlearned Rage," let us strive all the more to disseminate knowledge concerning anesthesia, to teach and train those who are desirous of learning. Let us endeavor to do investigative work, to divide time between the laboratory and the clinic, to coordinate findings from the two places, and to collaborate with members of our schools' other departments. We must do all in our power to provide the best anesthesia possible for our fighting forces, for while it is evident that the general principles of anesthesia are not affected by the circumstances of war, it is equally evident that it is our duty unremittingly to seek those means in anesthesia which are especially suited to the exigencies of battle. It should be understood that

although men of the fighting services are of necessity exceptionally fit before an engagement, they may frequently be most urgently in need of the best attention known to anesthesia after the conflict. As we regard all this to be the imperatively pressing problem of the present in anesthesia, let us seriously consider approaching our authorities, respectfully, with suggestions for amending the teaching of anesthesia and for a fuller application of good anesthesia during war circumstances. Henry James has said, "There's nothing grotesque in a pure ambition, or in a life devoted to it!"

As we face the tremendous realities of the hour, let us feel with Thoreau in his "Inspiration":

I hearing get, who had but ears.
And sight, who had but eyes before;
I moments live, who lived but years,
And truth discern, who knew but learning's lore.

Now chiefly is my natal hour,
And only now my prime of life;
Of manhood's strength it is the flower,
'Tis peace's end, and war's beginning strife.

And when the war is over, let us do our share in founding a *New Atlantis*, so that, with Bacon, in his own noble phrase, we shall "have enlarged the bounds of human empire."

For the information of anesthesiologists who are contemplating application for certification by the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc., or who are training physicians for the specialty, the following questions have been employed for Part I (written) examination in the past in *Physics and Chemistry*:

1. Name and give the properties of one poison gas used during World War I.
2. Describe a single method for determining the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentration in an oxygen therapy tent. What reagents are needed?
3. What is an ether? Name three that have been used in clinical anesthesia. How do they differ chemically?
4. Outline a brief discussion on "Minimizing the fire and explosion hazard in operating rooms" that could be given to the nursing staff.
5. (a) Give the quantity in grams of a drug that would be needed to prepare one ounce of 1 per cent solution. (b) How many grains would be used to prepare 100 cc.? (c) Write the practical metric equivalent for: (1) 5 grains, (2) $\frac{1}{150}$ grain, (3) 10 minims, (4) 99° F., (5) 6 inches.
6. What contributions have the following chemists made to anesthesia? Lavoisier, Sertürner, Davy, Einhorn, Waldie, Willstätter.