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~~HISTORICAL SECTION.~~~~Introductory Remarks.~~PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Brander 887 L2

In thanking the members of the Section for the honour of election as their first Chairman, Sir William Osler remarked that he had at least two qualifications - a keen interest in the subject and a certain academic leisure, which would enable him to attend to the duties of the position. Physicians held very different views on the subject of the history of medicine. A majority were indifferent - too busy to pay any attention to it; a considerable number were interested enough to read articles, or to listen to papers; then there were the amateur students, like himself, who dabbled in history as a pastime; and lastly there was a select group of real scholars, men like Adams, Greenhill and Payne. It was to be hoped that this section would form a meeting ground for the scholars, the students, and for all those who felt that the study of the history of medicine had a real value in education.

He felt sure, from the number of men who had sent in their names, that it would prove to be a useful working section. There was much to be done, for example in British Medicine in continuation of the good work of Payne, Norman Moore and D'Arcy Power.

The section might encourage educational work, and it would be easy to arrange courses of lectures by experts in Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman Medicine, which would prove very attractive to senior students and to young practitioners. At each meeting demonstrations of books, etc. could be arranged to illustrate some special phase in the evolution of medicine.

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He would ask the members of the section to take a special interest
in the history of the Society. Though large, and rapidly growing,
there were some lacunae, particularly in the choice editions of the
works of the great writers of the profession, and he would suggest
that by special subscriptions among the members and fellows, on
occasion offered, such books should be bought.
And lastly, ~~he would~~ the members ~~of the~~ Historical
Section of the International Medical Congress next year, and urged
them to try to make it a great success.

1913
Pres. Allen
Med. Soc. B.S.M.

[He would ask the members of the section to take a special interest in the Library of the Society. Though large, and rapidly growing, there were many lacunae, particularly in the choice editions of the works of the great masters of the profession, and he would suggest that by special subscriptions among the members and Fellows, as occasion offered, such books should be bought.

[And, lastly, ~~he reminded~~ the members ^{were reminded of the} ~~that there would be an~~ Historical Section of the International Medical Congress next year, and urged ~~them~~ to help to make it a great success.