

### Address of the Association.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIES :—

On behalf of the members of the British Medical Association we offer our grateful thanks to Your Majesties for graciously consenting to perform the opening ceremony of the new House of the Association. We recall with pride and pleasure that His Majesty King Edward the Seventh in 1900, when Prince of Wales, graciously accepted the Honorary Membership of the Association; that on succeeding to the Throne he further honoured us by becoming Patron of the Association; and that Your Majesty did graciously consent to occupy that office on your accession to the Throne.

The British Medical Association was founded at Worcester in 1832 by Sir Charles Hastings, an eminent and public-spirited physician, whose memory we desire piously to honour on this auspicious day. The Association from its beginning has had for its objects the promotion of the medical and allied sciences and the maintenance of the honour and interests of the medical profession. In pursuance of these aims the Association has striven to maintain the great traditions of the medical profession and to interest every one of its members in the advance of the science and art of medicine, having always in mind that the members of our profession are not only guardians of the interests of the individual patients committed to their charge, but, collectively, have a duty to the community in the promotion and protection of the public health.

In its work for the advancement of medical science the Association has for many years spent about £1,000 a year in scholarships and scientific grants which have been the means of encouraging many young doctors to pursue medical research. Our Annual Meetings, at which the progress of the various branches of medicine is reviewed, give opportunities to those who have made new discoveries or evolved new ideas to place them before their colleagues for discussion; and throughout the year, in the length and breadth of the land, local units of the Association carry on the education of our members and provide for them, in some measure, that post-graduate study which is so essential for progress and which we regretfully recognize has not yet been organized and developed in this country as it ought to be. In addition, the Association publishes the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, which is recognized as among the leading medical journals of the world, has the widest circulation of any in the British Empire, and is one of the main instruments of the Association in the instruction of its members.

Not least among the activities of the Association are those which concern the relationships of the practitioner to his fellows and to the community, and the standard of ethics rightly to be observed in a liberal profession.

From the representative character of the gathering before Your Majesties to-day it may be seen how far the Association has succeeded in its efforts to enlist the support of all sections of the profession. Among its members, anxious to serve its great objects, there have always been, from its inception to the present day, the most eminent men and women in the profession. It is all-embracing: in its ranks are the general practitioner—the mainstay of the Association, as he is the first line of defence on which the public relies in accident and disease—the physician, the surgeon, the specialist, the teacher, the public health officer, the laboratory worker; and in all ranks the Association has no more loyal supporters than its women members, now numbering some 2,250. May we say on their behalf how greatly we appreciate the presence to-day of Her Majesty the Queen, who has shown in so many ways her interest in the education and special work of medical women.

We would point with pride to the fact that the Association's membership is world-wide; that many of our most successful Branches are in Your Majesty's Dominions over the sea; and that we are favoured on this great day in the Association's history with the presence of eminent medical representatives of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India, together with many from the Colonies and Dependencies. In recent years distinguished members of the Association have officially visited South Africa, Australia, and Canada, and we are assured that these delegations have played an important part in cementing the bonds of union of the profession throughout the Empire. Our relations with kindred societies in this and other countries are cordial and mutually helpful, as is shown by the presence on this occasion of representatives of almost every medical organization in this country, of representatives of several great medical associations of European countries, and of an important delegation from the American Medical Association.

Your Majesties have seen at the entrance to this House the Gates we have erected to the glorious memory of the 574 members of the Association who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War, and it is hoped that you will graciously inspect the *Book of Honour* in which their names have been engrossed with loving care and artistic beauty by Mr. F. G. Hallett, O.B.E. The Association recalls with pride that by means of its organization in local units throughout the United Kingdom it was able during the Great War to serve the State in many ways, but chiefly by ensuring the supply of doctors for the Services, having due regard to the interests of the civil population at home.

The House which we now ask Your Majesty graciously to declare open is the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A., who designed it, and, after its use by the military authorities during the War, has adapted it to the use of our Association. In it we shall have greatly extended opportunities for usefulness to our members, to the profession of medicine, and to the community at large. It will be our endeavour so to use this House and these opportunities as to be worthy of the intentions of our Founder, of the past history of the Association, and of the encouragement which Your Majesties have given us by your presence here to-day.

In asking Your Majesty to declare this House open we desire to express the loyalty of our members to Your Majesties, and to utter the fervent hope that Your Majesty may long be spared in health and strength to preside over the destinies of our great Empire.