

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE FIFTH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
HELD IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
MAY 21, 22, AND 23 1883**

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AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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TRANSACTIONS
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FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
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AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
HELD IN THE HALL OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, NEW YORK,
MAY 21, 22, AND 23, 1883.

First day, morning session.

The Fifth Annual Congress of the American Laryngological Association was called to order at ten o'clock by George M. Lef-ferts, M.D., President of the Association.

The Secretary, D. Bryson Delavan, M.D., called the roll, the following Fellows being present during the session :

FELLOWS PRESENT.

HARRISON ALLEN, M.D., Philadelphia.	E. F. INGALS, M.D., Chicago.
MORRIS J. ASCH, M.D., New York.	F. L. IVES, M.D., New York.
F. H. BOSWORTH, M.D., New York.	W. C. JARVIS, M.D., New York.
S. H. CHAPMAN, M.D., New Haven.	S. JOHNSTON, M.D., Baltimore.
J. SOLIS-COHEN, M.D., Philadelphia.	R. H. KEALHOFER, M.D., St. Louis.
WM. H. DALY, M.D., Pittsburgh.	F. I. KNIGHT, M.D., Boston.
T. A. DEBLOIS, M.D., Boston.	S. W. LANGMAID, M.D., Boston.
D. B. DELAVAN, M.D., New York.	G. M. LEFFERTS, M.D., New York.
F. DONALDSON, M.D., Baltimore.	R. P. LINCOLN, M.D., New York.
J. H. DOUGLAS, M.D., New York.	G. W. MAJOR, M.D., Montreal.
W. F. DUNCAN, M.D., New York.	E. C. MORGAN, M.D., Washington.
L. ELSBERG, M.D., New York.	D. N. RANKIN, M.D., Allegheny.
T. R. FRENCH, M.D., Brooklyn.	BEVERLEY ROBINSON, M.D., New York.
W. GLEITSMAN, M.D., New York.	J. O. ROE, M.D., Rochester.
U. G. HITCHCOCK, M.D., New York.	C. SEILER, M.D., Philadelphia.
E. HOLDEN, M.D., Newark.	A. H. SMITH, M.D., New York.
F. H. HOOPER, M.D., Boston.	CLINTON WAGNER, M.D., New York.

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The Chairman invited ex-Presidents of the Association to occupy seats upon the platform, and then proceeded to deliver his annual address.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen:—

Among the manifold duties incident to the Presidential office, none is more grateful, none affords more pleasure, than the one of welcoming each year old friends to our annual gathering.

I greet you, then, colleagues and fellow-workers, with cordiality. I extend to you right heartily the hand of friendship. I welcome you, in my own name and that of your colleagues residing here, to our home. I offer you, as far as lies in my power to do so, unbounded hospitality.

We hail your coming with pleasure; but after all, are we not already of one brotherhood? Has not a common bond long ago united us in one family? Then what more need I say than re-echo the words of Portia:

"Sir, you are very welcome to our house.
It must appear in other ways than words,
Therefore I scant this breathing courtesy."

My next duty, and it is one which I deeply feel, is, before assuming the responsibilities of office, to thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me in electing me to the office of your President, and to assure you that it will be my earnest endeavor to justify your choice, however I may fail to satisfy my own and your expectations.

May I venture to ask at your hands a generous interpretation of my efforts, so to guide your deliberations here, that they may advance the science and practice of the department of medicine, in which we are all enrolled.

Both the sanction of custom and the example of my worthy predecessors in the Presidential chair, have given you the right to expect—nay, to demand from me, an inaugural address. I am fully aware of the obligation; but, may I be pardoned if I follow my conviction of what is best; if I overthrow, for the once, a custom sanctioned by long usage; if I dare to set an example to this Association, which, I venture to hope, may be followed by my successors?

Why should I, I ask myself, sacrifice time to the delivery of an

address of the usual form, dealing with generalities, filled with recommendations rarely acted upon? why sacrifice to platitude, to words—

“ Words are like leaves, and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.”

our time, hours already too short, when so much practical work lies ready to our hand and has to be accomplished?

Bear with me, then, when I, instead of a general address, say only a few words; when I offer rather as my contribution to the general work, as my mite, to the store of scientific wealth, which through you, by your efforts and with your aid, has been gathered together—only a paper.

The few moments that I shall occupy cannot better be utilized than in first congratulating you, as I think I ought to do, upon the *status* of our present Congress.

Never before in the history of our association, has our annual gathering been so large. We have with us to-day or will have during the meeting, thirty-seven of our Fellows, among whom are some, and I here welcome them cordially, who have not before met with us. May their example be speedily followed by other erring ones.

Never before has the number of Essays presented been so large.

At our first Congress, they numbered fourteen; at our second only eight; at our third they reached fifteen; at our fourth they reached eleven; and to-day they have swelled to the number of twenty-three, within one of fifty per cent. of our whole membership.

Never before have the subjects chosen covered so wide and varied a ground, or been of as great interest.

Do not these facts speak well for the vigor, for the vitality of our organization? Do they not show an increased and increasing interest in our work, and in each other?

I hold so, and I congratulate you, I say, that it is so, and I congratulate myself, with a just and pardonable pride, that it has been under my leadership that you have so well rallied about me, in my earnest aim to make the present a memorable occasion in our history.

Our constitutional limit is a fellowship of fifty. To-day, after a short life of five years, that limit has been, or will be, in a few moments, reached. Our ranks are full, our number complete. Here again a subject for self-congratulation presents itself.